

THE MIDWIFE DISCOVERED.



THE COVENT GARDEN JESTER.

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T H E

Rich Young Country 'Squire;

I N A

SERIES OF LETTERS,

A

N O V E L:

Chiefly in the Luscious Taste.

Printed in the Year MDCCCLXXXVII,

[Price 2s. 6d.]

T H E

Rich Young Country Series

I N A



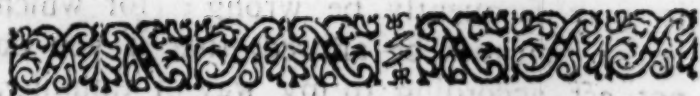
SERIES OF

N O V A E

Chiefly in the Lucious Tolls

Printed in the Year of Occurrence

[1844]



THE

Rich Young Country Squire, &c.

LETTER I.

DEAR SIR,

THE frank manner in which you ask
 my advice concerning your conduct
 in the world, and desire to know if I approve
 of your being a candidate at the next gene-
 ral election for the county of —, obliges
 me to comply with your request, though
 unequal to the task; but as my opinion
 of things will be according to the idea

B

I have

I have formed of them, so consequently it may frequently be wrong; for which reason you may be assured, that if you do not act according to my way of thinking, it will neither offend me as a dictator, nor disoblige me as a friend.

You are master of five thousand pounds a year, and a handsome sum of money, have had a liberal education, travelled enough to know the value of the laws and liberty of your own country; and what still is more, are yet *unspoiled* by wealth or vice.

As this is the case, my business is to keep you in the paths of virtue, by painting the several vices in their true colours, and shewing the different consequences of them; in which I shall endeavour to amuse, as well as to instruct you.

In the next place you shall have my sentiments on your parliamentary scheme; but do not expect a regular system for your conduct in either, my design being only to give you my thoughts on these subjects, as they occur to me, without being confined to any rule but that of candour.



I shall

I shall begin with acquainting you, that I think it ridiculous to attempt convincing young gentlemen, there is any real pleasure in the calm delights of the country, whilst they live in a perpetual hurry, and constantly rove after pleasures, but never enjoy any, being led by their imagination to every thing new ; therefore I shall leave this grand work to be brought to perfection by time and experience.

All I insist upon is, that you visit the dirty acres of your ancestors every summer, as a thing absolutely necessary to those who expect their estates well tenanted, and Farms kept in good repair, *stewards not having the art of acting for the benefit of the proprietors.* Therefore it is your business to transact the principal part of your affairs, and only leave the lesser things to agents ; in which you will have the additional advantage of gaining an employment for your vacant hours, that will greatly contribute to your health and ease in this life ; for though its shortness is a general complaint, yet, from the cradle to the coffin, we are daily employed in finding out stratagems to kill time.

Not far from your paternal seat, there are gentlemen to be met with who have run through all the follies of youth, and been convinced by time and reason, that they are *vanity and vexation of spirit*; therefore wisely retired from the fluttering world, to enjoy true happiness in the country; with these you may pass many agreeable hours, for certainly they cannot be bad company.

You have the advowson of two good livings in your neighbourhood, besides that of your own parish, worthy the acceptance of any clergyman whose ambition doth not lead him to court; and if you chuse proper subjects to fill them, you cannot have more agreeable companions; for I dare say, that religion and morality being their profession will be no objection to you.

Notwithstanding it is the fashion to rail at the cloth, and there may be very bad men among the clergy, yet when they have had a good education, and are men of letters, they are generally polite and sociable. I must own that the number of lads sent from the free-schools in the different counties, to receive their education at the universities,

in

in the quality of servants, makes many of them very despicable, and the trifling revenue of a considerable part of the benefices contributes to encrease this contempt. However, with all their faults, our clergy are the most regular in their conduct, as well as the most learned, of any in Europe; for even the Dutch dominés (as they are called) are not always endowed with sobriety, nor have the gift of continency, or are free from worldly views; and yet there is not any place where more real respect is paid to the clergy, than in the United Provinces.

As I have mentioned the clergy, I shall say something on religion; the present age being pestered with a set of witlings, who call themselves free thinkers, and publickly ridicule all religion, because some imperfection may be found in most, by the abuses which have crept into temples and churches, to extend the power, or increase the wealth of the priesthood, and which may be difficult to remedy; for alterations, tho' reasonable, in religious matters, are always attended with inconveniencies. I must likewise take notice,

that these gentlemen are bad politicians, in not considering, that a religion is as necessary to keep the political body in good order, as meat and drink to preserve the human. However, I think every man ought to have the liberty of enquiring freely into religion, so far as regards himself, but none permitted to publish their thoughts on this subject, if they in any manner tend to disturb the peace of the community. One of the most famous writers of this kind brought a book he had newly published to a man of fashion, who was his particular friend, and told him, there were arguments in it sufficient to overturn the christian religion. Upon which his friend answered, " Pray, Sir, have you
 " thought of a better to set up in its
 " place when this is pulled down?" The author owned he had not ; and his friend replied, " Then I think you a very bad
 " man, and that you have wrote this
 " treatise to make yourself known, and
 " disturb the peace of your neighbours ;
 " for which reasons I shall neither read
 " your book, nor have any further com-
 " merce with you."

Tho' I have propos'd some companions to you in the country, do not imagine I want to add any fox-hunting 'squires to the number, for such animals are only fit to converse with their dogs and horses. But I believe you will have no reason to be afraid of their intruding upon your happy hours, as this race are generally illiterate, thro' the indulgence of foolish parents in their younger years, and have an aversion to the conversation of polite and learned men, as well as the company of the fair sex; from which we may reasonably infer, that they cannot be acquainted with the beauty of virtue, or the tender passions. Nor doth it appear to me, that these gentlemen have any inclination to improve their minds, and soften their natural roughness by reading; for I fancy, upon examination, you will find the libraries of most fox-hunters consist of the *Pocket Farrier*, and that, like Cimon, they spend the best part of their time in fields and woods, where Iphigenia's are seldom found sleeping, in our days, to turn fools into fine gentlemen. Therefore, instead of being useful to their neighbours by social virtues,

they generally become cruel tyrants and unjust oppressors, to all those who have the unhappiness to be placed within the reach of their power.

If the agreeable situation of your house should tempt you to make a new pleasure-garden, do not let it be too extensive, nor admit any thing trifling; be likewise careful to avoid erecting too many buildings in it; for in my opinion, nothing of this kind ought to be found there, but what hath some connection with a garden, and its particular use assigned. But above all, remember to have a something in the whole to give every beholder pleasure, which something you must allow can only be nature, as closely followed, as a fine picture is by a good copyist.

LETTER

LETTER II.

I Shall now make my retreat from the country, and entertain you with the tumultuous pleasures of the town, among which we may rank whoring, drinking, and gaming, as they are considered by the mistaken youth of the present age, to be full as necessary to compleat a gentleman, as riding, fencing, and dancing. The first of these vices is undoubtedly not so bad as many others, whilst young people are in the highday of their blood, and keep within the bounds of the publick stews; but when a man premeditately sets about seducing an unwary young creature, whose portion consists in her beauty and virtue, I believe there is not any body so bold as to vindicate his behaviour; for to bring unhappiness upon a family, and misery to a deluded girl, are certainly things of a very criminal nature.

Some people, to palliate their crimes, say, the girls they have debauched were of a low rank, and miserably poor, and that they never abandoned any one
without

without leaving her a comfortable subsistence ; therefore such things may be faults, but not crimes. This excuse is far from being satisfactory ; for if these unhappy creatures are left in better circumstances, they are also left with higher desires, and more appetites to gratify ; and instead of the honest industry, to which they were bred, their keepers leave them in a state of idleness, attended with an inclination to pleasure, from which flows the misery we daily see these unhappy wretches labour under, and which too frequently exalts them to the gallows.

A reasonable satisfaction may be made for most other injuries, but this is of such a nature, that no equivalent can be given in exchange ; many are the accidents in life, by which the meanest and the poorest person may obtain riches, but it is impossible to restore the loss of chastity. Your favourite *Tully* hath the following remark,—“ Single vices make
 “ men commit single crimes ; but one
 “ vice makes women guilty of all.
 “ And the reason of it is, the general
 “ contempt and ill usage that custom
 “ has made the consequences of the
 “ forfeiture

“ forfeiture of female virtue. For
 “ women finding themselves irrec-
 “ verably undone by such a slip, and
 “ treated as if nothing could be added
 “ to their guilt, stick afterwards at no
 “ crime, because they know they are
 “ thought capable of all.”

As this is the case, what shall we say to those wretches who have so little sense of another's woe as to publish the names and abodes of the unhappy creatures they have ruined, and even push matters to such a degree of impudence, as to talk of favours they never received, and by that means ruin the reputation of many a virtuous young woman? As to my part, I think it cannot be a crime to wish them the same fate as one of these boasters met with, not many years ago, from the hands of the lady he had injured, in the northern part of Great Britain.

As these crimes chiefly fall to the share of men who have easy fortunes, they are too slightly regarded by the generality of mankind; and I am sorry to say, that the ladies only laugh at things of this nature, and think the man who hath debauched fifty women a much prettier

prettier fellow than him who hath only ruined forty-nine. However I would have young gentlemen consider, that their attacks upon girls of virtue always put it in the fair one's power to make their lovers pay severely for the intended injury ; of which I will give you an instance in the following history.

Anselm was a farmer, who by his industry had gathered together near three thousand pounds ; his table was homely, but open to all comers, and his mite never wanting to the unhappy ; for he followed the law and the gospel in regarding all persons as his neighbours.

The honest farmer had a daughter, whom heaven blessed with beauty, virtue, and innocence of manners ; and Anselm added in her education every thing he thought would conduce to strengthen her virtues. Jacinta rewarded all his cares with piety and filial duty, which naturally arise in the minds of young people, who have virtuous educations ; for children generally take a bent from their parents instructions, provided they are enforced by example.

Anselm's

Anselm's days rolled easily on, till Jacinta arrived at the age of seventeen, when a black cloud hovered over this good man's head ; for at this time a young gentleman of fortune, called Clodio, saw Jacinta, and loved, but pride interposed betwixt Cupid and Hymen, and soon convinced our lover, that he ought to debauch her. Clodio had good sense and many amiable qualities, but coming early to a great estate, was warped by wealth and bad company ; therefore, instead of following the dictates of reason, he blindly submitted to the rules of false taste, and frequently gamed, to shew he could lose his money genteely ; got drunk, and broke windows, to appear a rake ; and sunk into a harlot's arms, with tasteless joys, because it was the fashion to keep a mistress.

This resolution formed, he enquired into the fair one's character, and having heard of Jacinta's great virtue, was convinced that an open attack upon her chastity would never succeed, therefore had recourse to the ordinary method of professing honourable designs, in hopes that some unguarded minute would make him master of his wishes.

There

There was an elderly gentlewoman, of slender means, lived in Anselm's neighbourhood, who was intimate with Jacinta, and always welcome to the farmer's house, as she passed for a very godly woman. Clodio, hearing of the old woman's preciseness, and that she always had the *Practice of piety* in her hands, made her a visit, and without any ceremony told his case, and threw two hundred guineas into her lap. The good lady smiled, took up the guineas, owned herself a hypocrite, and promised her assistance, but begged the affair might be conducted with all imaginable secrecy, lest she should suffer in her reputation by this means, and lose the contributions which she annually levied on persons of real piety, by her seeming sanctity.

Clodio had several interviews with Jacinta, at the old lady's house, and as his person and address were perfectly agreeable, and professions in appearance honourable, he did not fail to make an impression on this young creature's heart. But though she had been engaged to secrecy by her admirer, yet for once duty prevailed over love, and she acquainted

acquainted her father with every thing that had passed, at the same time asking pardon for proceeding so far without his knowledge. None but parents can judge of Anselm's anxiety, when she finished her tale, by owning she liked the gentleman. The good old man immediately perceived the ruin of his daughter was intended, and as he was fully persuaded she was virtuous, so he was convinced, that neither fraud nor force would be omitted on this occasion. However he smoothed his brow, applauded her for telling him such an important secret, and assured her he would give her hand to any worthy man she liked, but was afraid of villainy in this case, under the appearance of honesty, and that she would be a victim to her own credulity. He therefore ordered Jacinta to send for madam Commodious to his house, and tell her, that, upon reflection, she did not think it prudent to see Clodio any more in private, till the priest had joined their hands, and desired leave to acquaint her father with the affair. The old lady made a report of Jacinta's resolution to her lover, who perceived his mine

mine was sprung, without having the desired effect ; therefore, as a last effort, endeavoured to amuse her with the stale cheat of dependencies, which when ceased, he would publicly marry her, but begged that in the mean time she would consent to his wishes, as he already regarded her as his wife. Jacinta replied to the old lady, that this proposal being of the utmost consequence to her future welfare, she must take a day or two to consider how to act in such an important affair. The next morning her father was acquainted with this new scheme to ruin his daughter, and smiling, told Jacinta, he would make Clodio her husband, if she agreed to venture on a man who loved, but had no intention to marry her. Jacinta answered, she was ready to run all hazards to make Clodio her's. Anselm then ordered her to tell the good lady, she would trust entirely in Clodio's honour, and admit him privately into her bed-chamber, that very night at eleven o'clock, when the family were asleep. You will say great is the credulity of lovers, when I tell you the plot succeeded, and Clodio was stepping into bed to

to the Fair, when Anselm entered with a pistol in one hand, and a minister in the other, and bid him *take his choice*. The young gentleman thought marriage the most *dangerous* venture, so let the clergyman join his and Jacinta's hands, and in a little time after his marriage was intirely reformed by the prudent behaviour of his amiable wife.

C

LETTER

L E T T E R III.

IN antient times, when it was not difficult to find virtue under the frock, a friar had among his penitents many drunkards, which made the good father suppose there was some hidden charm in this vice, therefore, that he might be able to order a proper penance for the crime, he one day retired to his cell with two bottles of good wine to make the experiment. But alas, he could not resist the force of one, whose terrible effects almost killed the poor friar. The good father, more at a loss than ever, when these gentlemen came the next time to confession, bid them get drunk again, thinking no punishment could equal what he suffered from one bottle. And really when the unexperienced hear how drunkenness is adored in northern climes at present, it is natural for them to fall into the friar's error, and imagine she must be mistress of some extraordinary attractions. But upon examination we find her loaded with diseases, covered with

with ulcers, and the parent of midnight brawls, which frequently terminate in murder, and when in the best humour, betraying our secrets to every one who will listen to her folly. But let us leave this deformed goddess to take a little repose after the last debauch, and enquire how the most amiable part of her votaries pass the time.

In the evening they sit down to their bottle, sing lewd catches, fill bumpers, cry, drink about, till they lose the use of their speech, and tumble upon the floor, from whence they are carried to their beds. At noon they wake half disordered in their senses, call for orange and water-gruel, pass the rest of the day in a state of stupidity, and at night return to their claret like *a dog to the vomit*. It is no wonder then, the Spartans held this vice in the utmost detestation, and obliged their slaves to get drunk, in order to shew their children, that this is the true Circean cup, which transforms men into beasts. But I must not omit setting down amongst these worthies, her trusty and well-beloved kinsman the 'Squire, who foxhunts in his kitchen, drinks beer with his ser-

vants, and makes practical jokes on their legs and shoulders, whilst the leering clowns applaud his worship's wit and humour.

The transition from drinking to gaming is very easy, the latter being frequently an evil consequence of the former, as it is a common trick with sharpers, to warm those persons well with wine whom they design to cheat. If people of fortune who game, would seriously reflect on the nature of this vice, they could not avoid perceiving, that no other cause can be assigned for their being addicted to it but covetousness; for when a man hath every thing necessary to make life easy in point of riches, and runs a risk of being unhappy by this means, the motive to it must be avarice, as the joy of conquest is the same when the stake is a trifle as when for thousands, abstracted from greediness of gain.

These things premised, it will not appear strange, that honest men play with known thieves, nor that the sharper, from raking the kennels, or such other honourable employment, steps into his coach, and the gentleman, who games,

is reduced from a plentiful fortune to beggary and want. Every one must remember, a certain baronet was a melancholy instance of this kind, who, far from being pitied, became the ridicule of every coxcomb, and had not a friend to give him a dinner. At the same time this unhappy gentleman had frequently the mortification of seeing gay sharpers invited to dinner by the best company, and treating in their turn without any other reflection on the conduct of each rascal, than the following sarcasm. " 'Tis a sad dog, that's certain, but he hath excellent wine, and keeps a good cook." But, in any country than this, such men would be carefully avoided, and the gallies for life, or some adequate punishment assigned them, as the reward of their crimes, which I shall shew you in the following story.

Some years ago a sharper appeared in this metropolis, who pretended to be of a noble Neapolitan family, and stiled himself the marquis Caracciolo. As thieves of all sorts have more indulgence in England, than any other part of the world, this fellow, after playing many

pranks, retired quietly out of the island. Some little time after his departure, an English gentleman met the marquis at Bruffels, turned into a French Abbè ; and having asked the cause of this metamorphosis, the other answered, that, belonging to the church, he always put on the holy garb whenever he came into a Roman Catholick country. Here the Abbè had his share in a great number of scandalous actions, in managing which he was not a little assisted by his habit ; but at last, becoming very notorious, he was obliged to decamp without beat of drum. The next place we hear of him is at Amsterdam, where he cheated a burgomaster's son of a considerable sum of money, for which he was conducted before the magistrates, in the character of monsieur Le Marquis. When his honour was at the bar, he protested his innocence, said he won the money fairly, and was a gentleman. The magistrates answered, That if he was a gentleman they were sorry for it, as persons of birth ought to have a better opinion of themselves, and higher notions of honour, than to defraud people of their money ; but they were
more

more inclined to believe he was a common sharper. However, as he was a stranger, and this the first crime he had committed, they would indulge him so far, as to omit the ceremony of having him publicly whipt and branded on the scaffold, and only send him to the Rasp-house for six months to hard labour and moderate diet, and at the expiration of this term, banish him the town and district of Amsterdam, upon pain of death if he returned ; which sentence was accordingly executed.

You must pardon me for being too warm on the article of gaming, as the greatest estates are easily swallowed up in this gulph of iniquity, and as all those who sail on this troubled ocean never fail of meeting with pirates carrying the flag of honesty.

The word gentleman is in every man's mouth, and most people think, that a good stock of money, and a silver-hilted sword, dubs an ordinary fellow a gentleman, as easy as the king makes a knight ; but I shall venture to say, that birth is absolutely necessary to make one ; and of this our James the first seems to have been sensible ; for

when a favourite of the lesser order addressed his majesty to be made a gentleman ; the king answered, “ Braid a god
 “ man ask some other thing, for I can
 “ make thee a lord, but not a gentleman.”

Most nations have certain rules for the gentry to follow, and all agree in the respect which is due to the character. In England, those whose birth intitles them to the appellation of gentleman, do not forfeit it by entering into trade. In France, a gentleman who trades, is immediately degraded from his nobility. In England and France the male enobles. In Germany several descents of nobility in the wife as well as in the husband are required. In England the gentry are divided into two classes, one of which forms the house of Peers, have certain privileges granted them for themselves and families, and are called Lords. The other class comes under the denomination of Commons, and those of them who are elected to serve in parliament, enjoy as to their own persons most of the privileges of the Peers. In France the gentry form only one body of nobility, which consists

fists of their *Noblesse titrée & non titrée.*

I shall not say any thing of the customs of other countries which regard gentlemen, as I think what is already mentioned sufficient to shew, that this character is no ordinary one, when the necessary qualifications to make a compleat gentleman are added to birth.

LETTER

LETTER IV.

TO prescribe rules for chusing a wife is above my capacity, and I should think myself more bold, than the man who first ventured out to sea, if I attempted any such thing. However, I hope you will not have so much regard to worldly interest in this article, as to marry a woman you dislike, or give your hand to one who is obliged by her parents to espouse you; for a mutual esteem, if not a tender union of hearts, is absolutely necessary to make the yoke of wedlock fit easy. And railery apart, we have not so much reason to complain of the fair sex as we pretend, provided we behave towards them with decency and prudence; for women in general are naturally tender, compassionate, and sincere, faithful friends in adversity, and always ready to follow the men they love into any country or climate. I must own they are likewise vain, capricious, and oftener governed by fancy than reason. All aim at dominion, and most of them are frequently

ly provoking to their husbands, only to see how far their power extends, therefore ought to be governed with a steady hand in essentials, and humoured in trifles; for they value the men who know how to rule, and are fond of them who can please. But if a husband has a mind to be completely happy, he must be faithful to the marriage-bed, and take particular care not to give the least suspicion of his being otherwise, for women seldom pardon an infringement of this nature; and in this they cannot be blamed.

As on marriage our future happiness or misery depends, I think parents are not to be excused, who force their children to act against their inclinations in this material article, which without doubt ought to be as free as air; for can it be supposed, that a married state will make two people any otherwise than miserable, who we may say are in some measure forced together to propagate children, without the least regard for one another, and perhaps with their hearts disposed of elsewhere. That wise legislator the Czar Peter the Great, found many tragedies acted in his dominions on this account,

account, therefore prudently abolished the custom of bargain and sale in marriages, and established a wiser system. But we need not go to Russia for melancholy histories of this kind, when we have too many of them much nearer home, one of which I shall relate to you.

Marcellus was the only son of a gentleman, who possessed three thousand pounds a year, and a place of a thousand. The parents of this gentleman were intimate friends and near neighbours of Clarissa's father and mother, by which means their children became play-fellows, and contracted a friendship in their infancy, which naturally turned to love when they came to riper years. The old folks observed the tender regard which they had for each other with pleasure, as they intended to make an alliance betwixt them.

When Clarissa was entering into her eighteenth year, she might justly be called an accomplished young lady, for she had added to all the ornamental qualities of her sex, the useful part of being a good housekeeper, under the prudent directions of a wise mother, who

who let her daughter have a reasonable share in all the town diversions, without making her acquainted with them too much.

At this time Marcellus was in his twentieth year, and could no longer contain his passion within due bounds; for tho' he was master of the fair one's heart, he was afraid her great beauty and merit might create him rivals too powerful for him to cope with. His father observed his uneasiness, and insisted on knowing the cause, which gave the young gentleman an opportunity to plead his passion with success. The fond parent gave way to his desires, and settled all preliminaries with Clarissa's father; but as they thought the lovers too young to enter into the world, Marcellus was sent abroad for three years, and the accomplishment of the marriage deferred till this time expired.

Our lover had an unexceptionable person, and was a polite scholar; the natural easiness in his behaviour, and sweetness of temper, could not be exceeded; and as the soft passion entered his breast, and took possession of his soul, almost from his infancy, he knew no
more

more of vice than what he heard. With these accomplishments he set out on his travels, and as almighty love inspired him with a desire of pleasing, it is not difficult to believe he returned a fine gentleman.

But the pains he had taken to cultivate his mind, proved of no service to himself, or use to his country; for immediately after his arrival, he was convinced, the hopes of obtaining the dear object of his wishes were at an end.

Unhappy disappointed lovers, you I must invoke, to tell me the pangs he felt, when informed by his father, that the bad situation of his affairs would not permit him to keep his promise; for since Marcellus left England, a contested election, joined to an expensive way of living, and some follies committed at play, had encreased his debts to almost twenty thousand pounds; therefore as Clarissa's fortune was but ten thousand pounds, he had contracted with the father of a young lady for twenty thousand pounds down, and twenty more at the old gentleman's death, and must be obeyed.

The beautiful Clarissa, who deserved a better fate, died of grief, and the young gentleman narrowly escaped a fever, only to suffer greater ills. Dutiful to a fault, he married Cinderaxa, the daughter of a smallcoal-man, who came by a sum of money, in a manner which was only known to himself, and consequently the conjectures on this occasion were not very favourable to him. After this a successful ticket in a state lottery turned his thoughts upon stock-jobbing, and being a continual favourite of fortune in the alley, and avaritious to the last degree, he acquired upwards of forty thousand pounds. In short, Cinderaxa turned whore and drunkard, and Marcellus, tired of living with such an abandoned creature, and having the idea of Clarissa constantly before him, and no hopes of seeing his misery cease, shot himself thro' the head six years after his marriage, leaving one son and a daughter behind him, who, if still alive, I hope inherit their father's virtues without his misfortunes.

L E T T E R

L E T T E R V.

IN your last Letter, you complain that the diversions of Tunbridge-wells do not answer your expectation, and that you are almost stupified with hearing high-life mentioned on all occasions; therefore to cure you of the spleen, I have sent you a short account of this high-life so much talk'd of, which it is reasonable to imagine ought to signify polite conversation, delicacy of wit and sentiment, and a refined taste in amusements and diversions: On the contrary, it only imports a few people of birth, titles, or fortune, who have separated themselves from the rest of the world, and have follies sufficient to fill a volume: but as I do not intend to swell my letters to a great bulk, by repeating them, you must be content with a seven days journal of a lady *far gone in high-life*, who catched cold at one of her own routs, which carried her into the other world, before she had proceeded any farther in her diary, which is no small loss to the publick; for if so much
 matter

matter arises in a week, what might we not have expected in a year ?

My JOURNAL.

SUNDAY.

LADY Graveairs was with me in full dress before I was up; wheedled me to St. James's chapel, with the hopes of hearing fine musick; obliged to hear a tedious sermon. The odious creature who preached, told us, that people of quality were obliged to *work out their salvation* by the same means as the vulgar.

Came home in the vapours, scolded the servants at table; could not put my lord out of humour, who laughed at me.

Went to make visits in the afternoon; till it was time to go to count Basset's assembly; won fifty guineas at Crimp; came home in good humour at four in the morning.

MONDAY.

Waked at eleven o'clock; rung for my chocolate; rose at twelve, as usual;

D

studied

studied a new stroke for a gown and petticoat, found it extravagantly pretty.

Dinner served up at four o'clock; not dressed, my lord out of humour; to provoke him the more, dined alone in my dressing-room.

At seven made a visit to lady Tattle, not at home, we never see one another; went to lord Dotard's rout, stript of every shilling at Basset, came home in great distress.

T U E S D A Y.

Tormented all night with dreaming of the odious ace of hearts; did not rise till one.

Consulted with my maid how to get money, not daring to tell my lord I had lost all my last quarteridge; mademoiselle advised me to pawn my girdle-buckle to count Basset for fifty guineas, which she said could not be found out, as the c——t intended to continue some time in deep mourning; sends her to the count, gets the money.

Sickness and vapours gone at sight of the dear gold; dressed against dinner, appear chearful and good-humoured to my

my lord, that he might not suspect any thing of my loss.

Received visits till it was time to go to the dutchess of Trente et Quarante's draw, played at Quadrille, lost a guinea; Billy Bite one of our party, Billy the man in vogue at present.

Came home late; mademoiselle told me that my lord, pleased with my good humour, intended to come to my apartment to-night, but finding I stayed late, went to his own.

W E D N E S D A Y.

Dreamed last night of Billy Bite, surprised at my toilet with an agreeable visit from him; Billy a desirable creature.

No body dined with us to-day; my lord and his dear spouse extreme dull company, tete a tete.

Went early into the city, out of curiosity to see lady Bottomrée's assembly; awkwardly received, a world of people there, but no company, so did not stay; strange that these upstart citizens will attempt to imitate people of quality! Time enough for lord Fribble's rout, won twenty one guineas.

D 2

THURSDAY

T H U R S D A Y . .

Had mademoiselle D'Epingle, the French robe-maker, all the morning with me, to fix my dress for the masquerade; made my lord and the company wait till dinner was spoiled.

At eleven o'clock went to the masquerade with company, dressed in a manner entirely new; stayed till five.

F R I D A Y .

In bed till two o'clock.

Coming to dinner, found the eating-room filled with my lord's favourites, a set of odious fellows, called men of learning, poets, and authors; fatigued to death with their musty morals.

Intended to have made my escape as soon as dinner was over, but prevented by the coachman and chairmen being out of the way; sure never woman was so plagued with servants as myself, having only three good ones in my numerous family, my French gentlewoman, my French cook, and my French footman.

Went to the withdrawing-room; a great deal of good company *on m'a conté des fleurettes sans consequence.*

Supped

Supped at lady Midnight's, stayed late.

S A T U R D A Y.

Out all the morning with miss Scamper and miss Fidget, who dined with me, and then went home to dress.

Had a rout; never was seen better company, high play, lost my money.

Lady Bloom the great beauty there; she is an ill-bred country dowdy, without any spirit.

My lord came home at one and went to bed, for he always sups abroad when I have a rout, the brute having no taste for the elegant entertainments of high life.

The company did not part till four.

To speak in proper terms, these assemblies bring people together, and probably occasion more close connections between the different sexes; for I have heard, that at one of them an arch waggently drew up a window curtain, a little above the girdles of the parties behind it, and by this means exhibited a scene to the spectators, which was not very edifying. But it is high time to leave these fine folks to themselves.

L E T T E R VI.

WE must all expect to meet with disappointments, either in a public or private life ; but let those which happen to you be ever so great, I flatter myself, that the natural sweetness of your disposition will prevent any alteration in your temper ; for I heartily subscribe to the opinion of an eminent writer, who says to this effect, that a bad boy generally makes a worthless young man, and a worthless young man a wicked old fellow ; as, on the contrary, I think a good heart will never change to a bad one. But as I know you love examples, I will give you the adventures of a clergyman, in the same manner as he entertained a few friends with them one evening, when they were mixing

—— with the friendly bowl,
The food of reason, and the flow of soul.

POPE.

“ My father’s estate was entailed, and no provision made for younger children ;
so

so that when I came to years of discretion, I found my elder and only brother in possession of the family estate, and myself in the wide world, with very little fortune. Divinity was intended for my profession, which ill suited with my ambition at that time; for as I had great relations at C——t, I thought it would not be difficult to raise a fortune there. However, I was obliged to make a virtue of necessity, and take the gown to save my fellowship, which was my whole income.

In a short time after I waited on my great friends, who gave me many dinners, and more squeezes by the hand; but nevertheless I had the continual mortification of seeing others promoted to those things which I solicited. At length, after many disappointments, and being the worst used by those who made me the greatest professions of friendship, I agreed to come into a C——r's house, as preceptor to his children, in hopes of pushing myself forward by this means.

My patron was one of those second-hand great men, who, from an interest in the country, have credit at C——t, and by being ushered into the closet of

a m——r, whilst the crowd wait in the levee-room, have the shew of importance. He had the little cunning of a withdrawing-room, to be well with every body, and friend to none. I soon found him to be the best slave, and worst master possible, therefore determined to get out of his power when any decent opportunity gave me leave; for tho' he was incapable of being a friend, he was a dangerous enemy.

In a little time an odd accident set me at liberty. You may remember, that a few years ago there was a strange bustle about places, and a great man promoted to a high office, which he did not hold above a day or two. My patron was one of the first at the door of the new m——r, therefore you may imagine his surprize, upon hearing the great man had resigned his employment. The C——r honoured me with his confidence on this occasion, and I shrugged my shoulders at the melancholy tale, but said nothing, being convinced that if I gave my advice, and things went wrong, all the blame would be laid to my charge. He seeing my unwillingness to speak, assured me, he intended to

to discharge his coachman and footman for mistaking the house. Upon this I immediately broke silence, and offered likewise to be turned out of doors for declaring in favour of the new m——r, if he thought it would be of any service to him. He thanked me, accepted my offer, and promised upon his honour to serve me the first opportunity; so accordingly we were formally discharged. When the cause of our disgrace was told us, the coachman answered with some spirit, that he received his orders from my patron's own mouth; but if he had not, would have drove where he did, being very well acquainted with his friendship to men in power. How the C——r got out of this scrape I do not know, for he immediately forgot his promise, and I never thought of putting him in mind of it.

From henceforward my ambition subsided, and reason took its place; I now only wished to see myself settled in an agreeable country retirement, but my relations would not let me be at peace; for to hide their own baseness, they pretended I was an untractable fellow,
 who

who quarrelled with every body, and even publicly hinted things disadvantageous to my morals. This strange behaviour of theirs created me new troubles, out of which I had almost extricated myself, when I came to the family estate by the death of my brother, whose injustice to me I freely forgive, and earnestly desire his ashes may rest in peace.

Tho' my disappointments have been of the most cruel sort, yet my temper is not in any manner soured by them; for, thanks be to God, my heart is always open to the distresses of mankind, and tho' I laugh at their follies, I pity their misfortunes."

LETTER

LETTER VII.

A Good and honest man, in the vulgar opinion, is one who goes frequently to church, and pays his debts. But the first is only the appearance of religion, and the other doth not deserve the name of honesty, for the law is always ready to oblige those to pay their debts who are able, but unwilling. However, if we allow the ordinary people to think in this manner, as they are only to be kept to their duty by the letter of the law, yet gentlemen ought to have nobler ideas of things, and should consider, that the most delicate honour is only honesty in its highest perfection; and as they are placed in a sphere above the vulgar, their actions ought to correspond with their station, in such a manner, as to raise a virtuous emulation amongst the lower class of mankind, which is indeed being of the greatest service to their country. But I shall leave sermonizing to the clergy, and endeavour to shew, that vulgar errors are frequently erroneous, as the following

lowing character is far from being uncommon.

Within a hundred miles of London, there lived one of these gentlemen who are always boasting of going to church, and paying their debts, and that, thanks be to God, they are honest men, and no atheists. But this gentleman did not make his honesty appear in any other thing than the above-mentioned customs; for he was a tyrant in his family, as well as in the neighbourhood; and as he had the honour to be a justice of peace, not a countryman, who was unqualified, killed a hare or a partridge to present to a friend, but he obliged him to pay the penalty which the law inflicts on such occasions; tho' I apprehend the game laws were principally intended against poachers who destroy the game, and not against the honest farmers, who casually kill it. But be this as it may, the gentleman thought his character, as an honest man, above all danger of impeachment, so long as he could plead the law for his actions, tho' he made use of it to oppress the poor and innocent. On this account he considered the reflections
made

made on his conduct by the neighbours, as the highest marks they could give of his justice.

After he had tyrannized over every body within the reach of his power for some years, lewdness, in the shape of love, entered his breast, and caused him to sigh for a beautiful girl of eighteen, who was the daughter of a cottager in the parish where he lived. How to gain the lovely maid, and preserve his reputation, was the difficulty he laboured under for some time ; but at last he thought of the following method. One morning early he takes his gun with him into the fields, under the pretence of shooting, and, in passing by her father's cottage, goes in to enquire for something he wanted to mend its lock, which gave him an opportunity of praising Betty (for that was the fair one's name) and to ask why she was not at service ? The old man answered, that she was a great help to her mother ; but however, if they knew of any good family where they could place her, she should go into the world. The gentleman, who was a batchelor, said he wanted a house-maid ; and if it would be
of

of any service to them, she should come into his family. The old folks thanked his worship, and in a few days after went to the hall with their daughter, little thinking they were putting their lamb into the paws of a tyger. To tell you of the different methods he used to seduce this poor girl, would be too tedious; therefore I shall only say, that he gained his point by a promise of marriage, which in the height of his passion he gave her in writing, and that soon after Betty proved with child, and claimed the performance of it. This he absolutely refused, and threatened to ruin her father and mother, and send her to the house of correction, if she did not swear the child to the butler; but in case she complied with his desire in this point, he would give her one hundred pounds. As the girl did not want sense, she desired two or three days to consider of this proposal, and in that time laid her case before a gentleman who was in the house, and at this time her admirer on honourable terms. This gentleman had been a great libertine, spent the best part of his fortune, and was now soliciting the

'squire

'squire to make his affairs easy, by lending him a sum of money to pay his creditors, and give him time to sell his estate. She concluded her melancholy story with telling him, he begun his addressees too late for her to think of accepting his generous offer, and at the same time presented him with the 'squire's promise of marriage to her, and begged he would keep it safe for her use. He took the note, and answered, that he perceived she was tricked and abused, therefore retained the same sentiments for her as he had before he was acquainted with this affair, and would marry her after she was brought to bed, if she approved of his being her husband, but thought it reasonable to stay till that time, that her master might maintain his own child; that from what he had heard from the justice about this affair, he believed some mischief was intended her, which he was determined to prevent. Therefore, in case she would confide in him, and make a proposal to her master, which he had some reason to imagine the 'squire would willingly accept, he did not doubt but things would arise from it very much to their advantage,

advantage, and all misfortunes be avoided. To this the girl readily consented, and he repeated it to her in the following manner ; that she was to propose her leaving his house, and going to —, where she could lay-in privately at a friend's house in this town, under the pretence that her husband durst not as yet own their marriage. And likewise acquaint him, that no suspicion of the real cause of her journey could arise in his family, provided a prudent person was sent along with her, as it was her intention to inform her father and mother, and fellow servants, that she was going to London in the waggon, which went from that place once a week. Upon hearing her scheme, the 'squire approved of it, and gave her thirty guineas, and promised that care should be taken of the child, and she have one hundred guineas as soon as she was able to come abroad after her lying-in, on condition of her keeping the affair secret, and going to London, and that she should ride behind her lover to —, as he was a person on whom he could depend. This affair being settled betwixt Betty and him, the 'squire applied

to

to the reformed libertine, to whom he now fully opened his grievances; and let the gentleman know, that if he would pass the river at the deep ford, in his way to —, and throw Betty into the stream in his passage, he would do him a signal favour, in putting out of the way a troublesome girl, and might depend on his gratitude for it. And he the more earnestly requested it of him, as no danger could ensue to either of them on her account; as the girl's death would be regarded by every body as accidental. From what the lover had heard before from his worship, he expected a proposal of this nature would be made him; therefore, with great composure of mind, seemingly consented to this detestable act, which drew from the 'squire new protestations of friendship and gratitude. The next day a feigned quarrel was made betwixt Betty and her master; and the girl, at her request, mounted on horseback behind her lover, who lodged her with a particular friend, and returned in the evening to the 'squire's, to whom he reported, that his orders were punctually obeyed, and the girl safely laid at the bottom of the river. The 'squire,

E thinking

thinking himself free from danger, called his servants into the parlour, and told them, that the quarrel which he had with Betty in the morning, was on her lover's account, who he supposed had some time ago seduced, and now murdered her, tho' he pretended she fell from his horse in passing the deep ford, and was drowned. The gentleman seeing his plot succeed, beyond his most sanguine hopes, made no answer to this declaration. Upon which the justice sent for a constable, and committed him to the county goal, on suspicion of murder, from his own confession. But next day the gentleman was releas'd, on Betty's appearing before a neighbouring justice, and relating to him her misfortunes, the villainy of her master, and the generosity of her lover.

Whilst the 'squire was amusing himself with the imaginary success of his infamous scheme, his brother justice informed him, by a letter, of Betty's deposition; and likewise, that the affair was still a secret, and might be kept so, if he made up the matter with the young folks, which, as a friend, he advised him to do, the charge against him being of a very heinous nature.

The

The 'squire perceived he was outwitted ; but seeing some hopes of preserving his reputation, posted to the justice's house, and agreed to give the gentleman two thousand five hundred pounds, to make his affairs easy, and by way of portion to Betty, on condition of secrecy, and their giving him a general release.

In due time Betty was brought to bed of a dead child, and soon after the money was paid, and the lovers married, who lived very happily together.

In about a year after their marriage, a learned divine, who was an eminent preacher, coming into this part of England, and hearing this story from the justice's wife, who, I suppose, had found the means to wheedle it out of her husband, resolved to go and preach at the 'squire's parish, and try if his eloquence could have any effect on this honest man's manners : he preached accordingly in so pathetick a manner, and so much to the purpose, that soon after the 'squire fell into a fit of despair, which terminated in lunacy, and obliged his relations to confine him the rest of his days in a private mad-house.

LETTER VIII.

THERE is not any thing more true, than that the nature of our being makes us subject to err ; but however, I think the errors of virtuous minds chiefly flow from prejudices in education, and fear of being censured by the world. If this is allowed to be true, we cannot be surprized to see young gentlemen, who are led by such deceitful guides, not only stray out of the paths of virtue, but wander a long time in the mazes of vice, few having the courage to face the world till forty ; though when we act in the cause of virtue, this bugbear ought to be laughed at, and despised. For this reason, I hope you will not suffer yourself to be deceived in matters of such consequence, but on all occasions take care to separate appearances from realities, and never aim at any thing higher than happiness.

Honour

Honour and shame from no condition
rise ;

Act well your part, there all the ho-
nour lies.

POPE.

Though the greatest part of man-
kind mistake the road to independency,
yet all aim at it ; for which reason it is
absurd to think, people are obliged to
give us their time, without any view of
interest in so doing. Every man likes
his own fire-side the best ; therefore, if
you desire to have company at your's,
this company must be allured to it with
pleasure and ease, in which you will
find irresistible charms, and the only
means of obtaining your wishes.

This is indeed a secret not known to
the suspicious man, who vainly ima-
gines the whole world have designs up-
on him, or want to turn him into ridi-
cule, and cannot help hinting suspicions
of this kind to his best friends. Let
his intentions be ever so good, he is not
able to carry them into execution, with
credit to himself ; for when he is doing
the honours of his house, with gaiety

and good humour, a laugh or a smile, without any meaning, will spoil his mirth, and that of his guests, by a sudden change in his temper. He is no sooner convinced of one mistake, than he falls into a new error, and to every thing that will bear a double meaning is certain to put the worst construction. Such a man is a self-tormentor, to whom neither titles, wealth, nor honours, can give any happiness; for the most simple trifles are continually disturbing his quiet.

I have frequently considered this strange character, and at last came to the following conclusion. That it is an easy matter to think meanly, and judge wrong, but requires a good understanding, and a noble mind, to act right; and therefore the oddities in the suspicious man's behaviour, are more owing to a defect in his head than heart.

As this character is carefully to be avoided, so we ought likewise to shun the other extreme, if we have not a mind to be continual dupes, and at last necessitous.

Heaven

Heaven hath blessed you with independency : preserve it ; for the moment you want any assistance, your title to sense and virtue is forfeited. Let a poor man's actions be ever so right, let truth and justice plead his cause, the base world, without hesitation, pronounce sentence against him, and with good reason, they think, as the miserable have not the power to make an interest at elections, or give routs, balls, and suppers. Do not be surprized at it, for in the Augustan age we find the tender Ovid complaining of this in the following lines.

*Donec eris felix, multos numerabis amicos :
Tempora si fuerint nubila, solus eris.*

However, I would have you believe, that when I speak of mankind in general terms, as at present, I only mean the majority ; for, without doubt, there are many worthy men, who think and act differently from the common herd. One of these I particularly know, whose gate is always open to the unhappy, who hears with compassion, and questions with delicacy, for fear

of hurting a generous mind, already too much hurt by fortune ; who promises little, yet performs every thing in his power ; who is learned and polite, hath a noble way of thinking, and an elegant magnificence reigning in all his designs.

LETTER

L E T T E R IX.

THE avaritious man forms, for his conduct, rules very different from those by which other people are guided; for he intirely divests himself of religion and morality, and is at continual variance with justice, because he thinks all things lawful that are convenient. Years and possession, which generally weaken other passions, only serve to increase his desires; and as he is always endeavouring to insnare his neighbour, he frequently becomes the dupe of his own designs. Notwithstanding it is a disagreeable thing to talk of such monsters, I will venture on the following history.

Some years since there lived in this city an usurer, who had ruined many families, and was one of the most notorious villains of that class. If you imagine, that his avarice employed all his time, you are mistaken, for he appropriated some part of it to gallantry; but his amusements of this kind were very low, as his presents to the fair never amounted to silver.

A cun-

A cunning jilt, who was perfectly well acquainted with his character, came one day to his house, and pawned a gold watch. Her sparkling black eyes, fine complection, easy shape, and genteel air, quite enchanted the old fellow, who desired to know where she lived, and begged to have the honour of visiting her. The lady answered, that she was pleased with his civility, acquainted him with her lodging, and invited him to dinner the next day. This success with the fair put the usurer into a rapture, for he hoped to obtain a mistress, as well as a dinner, *gratis*; the nymph having given herself some coquettish airs in taking her leave, which shewed her approbation of his person. He went accordingly, was well received, and before he departed made happy. The worthy gentleman, for the first time, offered a shilling for the favours bestowed on him, which the fair owned was more than they merited, but begged to be excused taking money, his happiness being solely owing to his agreeable person, and engaging manner.

Soon

Soon after she redeemed her watch, accepted the favour of only paying twenty *per cent.* and gave him an invitation to a new lodging she had taken, where every thing was prepared for the scene she intended to act.

At present you see both parties extremely well satisfied, and full of joy; one with the hopes that her design would succeed, and the other with having a beautiful mistress, which cost him nothing; but whilst the latter was thus caressed by fortune, and his mistress, they were contriving a scheme to turn his gladness into sorrow, which was put in execution, as follows.

One afternoon, being in wanton dalliance together, on a carpet, the lady screamed out, help! help! murder! and finished her exclamation with, Inhuman ravisher, I am undone! At the same time she held him fast in her arms, and he struggling to rise, gave her a blow by accident, which caused an inflamed eye. Upon this, two women, seemingly alarmed at her cries, bolted into the room, to whom the jilt gave sufficient time to observe the indecent posture

posture of the lovers, then quitted her hold, and pretended to faint. You cannot easily figure to yourself the astonishment of the man, or the reproaches of the women; one of them endeavoured to recover the poor lady, and succeeded, whilst the other secured the usurer; a pocket-pistol was found on the floor, loaded with a bullet, and, upon searching the old fellow, they pretended to find another in his pocket. The unhappy fair was put to bed, and a surgeon sent for; to whom she declared, that old Gripe had pulled her upon the floor in play, and then threatened to shoot her, if she did not comply with his desires; that, surprized at this wicked action, she screamed out, and immediately after fell into a fit, which gave the monster an opportunity to commit the most horrid of crimes. In vain did the usurer deny all this, and alledge their former familiarities in his defence; the evidence was clear against him, and he upon the point of being condemned, when, to pacify all parties, the surgeon desired poor Culprit to retire into another room with the evidence,

dence, till he visited the lady ; to which they consented.

After a consultation betwixt the jilt and the doctor, how to finish the affair successfully, the others were called in, to whom the surgeon reported, that there were evident marks of a rape on his patient ; but as he did not think the lady in any danger of her life, had prevailed on the fair one not to prosecute the usurer, till she heard further from him ; for, as the gentleman had a fair character in the world, it would be a great pity to bring him into danger of his life ; that in the heat of passion a worthy man might be guilty of such a crime as this, which he intirely imputed to the lady's charms, and not to any designed malice ; therefore the gentleman ought to be treated with more lenity than a common criminal.

By thus pretending to be the old fellow's friend, the surgeon gained his confidence ; by which means they managed the usurer so well, as to get five hundred pounds from him for a general release ; which loss mortified him to such a degree as to hang himself six months

months after this affair, for fear of dying for want, though he was worth many thousands.

Your noble soul is subject to err in a contrary manner, therefore I must take the liberty of desiring you always to remember, that Generosity is the daughter of Frugality:

LETTER

LETTER X.

THERE is not any thing in which young gentlemen are so unguarded as in chusing of intimates ; and yet nothing requires more circumspection ; for necessitous persons of little merit are always upon the watch to get into the favour of men of fortune, who find it much easier to cherish, than lay aside these troublesome people.

In the life-time of cardinal Fleury a countryman of ours was brought into a disagreeable affair at Paris by this means. A French gentleman, who lived by his wits, found an opportunity to introduce himself into the company of an English baronet, who immediately took a liking to him ; this gentleman's conversation being easy, polite, and mixt with that sort of wit which amuses, but doth not offend. But then his principles were of the worst sort ; for he only valued men so long as they were of use to him ; and when that ceased, would go any lengths to hurt, or even ruin, those who had served him most,
pro-

provided it suited with his interest. The baronet's acquaintance remonstrated to him, that it was dangerous to keep such a man company, and earnestly requested him to part decently with his new friend. The knight was good-natured and open-hearted, and free from any suspicion of ill in others, therefore did not listen to their request till he had some proofs of the Frenchman's falshood, and then endeavoured to lay him aside by fair means, but all to no purpose. Irritated at this repulse, the knight one day, at his own table, threatened to pull the parasite's coat off his back, and take it in part of a debt, which had been owing to him some time. Upon this, the Frenchman retired, and in going down stairs declared the other should pay dearly for this affront. He was as good as his word in this respect; for he acquainted cardinal Fleury, that our countryman had made him a proposal to assassinate the cardinal; and upon his refusing to be guilty of such an infamous action, threatened to put him in prison for forty lewis d'ors, which the knight had lent him, with a view,

as

as he supposed, to have the less difficulty in bringing him into his villainous design.

The cardinal, who was one of the most timorous men then living, never reflected on the improbability of the thing, but immediately sent the lieutenant-criminal orders to secure the Englishman, dead or alive. Accordingly, in the night, betwixt eleven and twelve, parties of the mareschalsey were posted at all the avenues leading to the house, and the main body before it. An exempt raps at the door, enquires for the gentleman, and was led into his bed-chamber, where he found the knight in a sound sleep. The exempt gently waked him, and politely desired our countryman to put on his cloaths, and go along with him ; the other immediately complied, and was conducted in a coach, waiting for that purpose, to the Bastile. The day after he was examined by the lieutenant-criminal, and answered with so much frankness, that Mr. Herault soon perceived he was an enemy to nobody but himself, by his fast way of living. Among other things he was asked, if he had

no enemies that were capable of hurting him? To which the knight answered, he never quarelled with any body in his life; but, upon recollection, he told the lieutenant-criminal how he had threatened the chevalier * * * a few days before. The day after, an Irish gentleman, in the French service desired leave of Monsf. Herault to visit our unfortunate countryman, who gave him liberty, with this addition of politeness, that his secretary should go along with the officer, to make the entrance easy. They went accordingly, and found our gentleman in a merry mood, who said, he had plenty of every thing, and provided he could have a chamber to look out at, and his friends and a few honest girls permitted to come and see him, he did not care how long he was kept in the Bastile. These things, and more of the same turn, made the secretary burst into a loud fit of laughter, by which the others were convinced he understood English, and that Monsf. Herault had very politely set a spy upon their actions.

A few days after the knight was released, and had many excuses from
the

the cardinal, and handsome presents, in the name of the king. As for the chevalier, he got intelligence how matters were likely to end, and fled from justice.

People of very moderate fortunes have it in their power to arrive at an elegant neatness in their manner of living, which, when managed by persons of a refined taste, without high desires, gives a charming relish to life ; for such people's little repasts to their friends have the art of adding a swiftness to the hours, unknown to sumptuous feasts, where formal state is principally observed. I must own, that an elegant magnificence is becoming in the great. The conqueror of Hanibal was not an enemy to it, and Paulus Emilius could deck out an entertainment with as much judgment as he ranged an army in order of battle ; but I believe, if these illustrious Romans had lived in our days, they would never have thought of taking away the candles, and leaving their guests in the dark, till a desert illuminated with lamps made its appearance.

LETTER XI.

WE are extremely subject to give too great an extent to the meaning of some words, and to confine others within too narrow limits; as for example, when we say such a person is a woman of virtue, we generally mean she is chaste, as if all the virtues were included in this single one of chastity. But there is really so little meant in this, that we ought not to suppose a woman to be without it, any more than a man without courage. I am afraid the fair sex will not agree with me in this point, for too many of them think, that if no objection can be made to their virtue, they are at full liberty to be every thing besides, that is necessary to make a husband unhappy. However, as few, among the better sort, put this maxim in practice, I shall say no more against them, but have recourse to my common method of shewing, by a little history, that a woman may be a bad wife, yet strictly virtuous, in their sense of the word.

In

In a market town in the west of England, there lived a man in the middle station of life, who was of a free open temper, and what we call a jovial companion. John, for so I shall call the hero of this history, married a spinster, who had refused several good offers out of pride, having some small pretences to gentility; but being now turned of thirty, thought it was not prudent to dally any longer with life, therefore accepted of John, whom she regarded as a person far beneath her, and one whom she honoured with her alliance.

The honey-moon was scarce over, when she began to upbraid her husband with bringing country-farmers into the house, who were persons unfit for her to converse with. John answered, " That these farmers were rich and honest men, and had been his friends from his infancy; therefore, instead of parting with such agreeable companions, he desired she would conform to his humour in this point, and receive them well when they favoured him with their company, such persons being proper acquaintance for people in their station." The lady

fainted away at this resolute answer, and John, unacquainted with the tricks of fine ladies, run in a hurry to a neighbouring apothecary, who soon recovered her with the assistance of hartshorn. When she returned to herself, tears trickled down her cheeks, and she cried out, Sure never virtuous woman was used as I am ! then went into another fit ; upon this the apothecary ordered her to be put to bed, and bid a servant go for a barber to shave her head, whilst he went to prepare two large blistering plaisters, then retired. Immediately after he was gone, the lady began to sigh, and said, she was something better, and pretending to be ignorant of what the apothecary said, asked if he was gone for any thing ? and when she heard of the blisters and barber, she desired they might be countermanded, as she found her spirits return, and hoped they would not be wanted. Then turning to her husband, with a tender look, told him, That if he used her any more with such severity, she should certainly die of grief ; by which she got a promise from the good-natured man never to contradict her any more. However, the lady's triumph

umph was not lasting ; for a few days after this accident, the apothecary told John, that her fits were feigned, and that the best way to cure his wife of these tricks, was almost to drown her with water, whenever she pretended to be taken ill in this manner.

The prescription had the desired effect, and John telling the neighbours what an excellent remedy the doctor had for fits of the mother, it came to her ears, and made her rage like a mad woman, and from henceforward affront all her husband's acquaintance who came to his house ; and whenever he asked her the cause of this behaviour, she threw the first thing she could lay hold of at his head, and then sighed out, " Was ever virtuous woman used like me ! "

One day business prevented John from returning home at the usual hour to dinner ; and madam, perceiving him talking to two gentlemen in the street, as she sat at table, made haste to finish her dinner, and then locked up all the eatables in a closet. Immediately after John came into the kitchen, where his wife then was, and desired something to eat. To

this madam answered, There was nothing left, for she had given what the servants left to the poor, not expecting he would dine at home. John seemed a little surprized at this, but on one of the servants pointing to the closet, he opened the door with a master-key, and seeing a Devonshire white-pot smoaking-hot, and untouched, took it out; upon which she snatched it from him, and threw it in his face. Poor John roared out that he was burnt to death; and madam, fearing his resentment, fled out of the house. The apothecary is now sent for to the husband, who made a ridiculous figure with the white-pot patched upon his face, and the whey trickling down his beard. The doctor, at his entrance, stood and laughed some time, then applied proper things to ease the poor wretch's pain, for he was terribly scalded. After the operation was over, John took the apothecary into the parlour, and complimented him on the goodness of the prescription which cured his wife of fits; and at the same time desired to know, if the doctor had any remedy for her madness. The apothecary answered, That he
knew

knew of an excellent one, which, when properly applied, seldom failed of curing this distemper in women. That this was what the sailors call a Supple-Jack, which breaks no bones, but bruises a person almost to mummy when well applied. That he might easily get one from Plymouth ; and whenever his wife was in a raging fit, he must beat her with it till she kept her bed, and then he was certain that, in due time, she would be cured by this means. John thanked the apothecary for his advice, and said, That he had sufficient reason to be convinced of the goodness of his prescriptions, therefore would write directly to a friend to send him one, and use it according to directions.

When the lady returned to the house, she approached her husband, with great humility and submission, and begged he would forgive this rash action, of which she sincerely repented, and was sorry for its bad effects ; but she had been put out of humour in the morning by an idle baggage of a servant, and his not coming home to dinner increased it : however, she would endeavour for the future to conquer these sudden starts
of

of passion, which gave him so much uneasiness. To this harangue John answered, that he forgave her this time ; but bid her be careful of offending any more.

As soon as John was recovered of the wounds he received from the white-pot, he walked very lovingly into the fields, with his wife, to take the air ; but great happiness is generally attended with some unexpected misfortune, as it happened to this couple ; for they quarrelled about the name of a flower, and had a fair battle at fifty-cuffs, in which the lady was foiled. After the engagement our heroine sat down by the side of a pond, very disconsolate, and crying, in her usual tone, Was ever virtuous woman used like me ! At which John fell a laughing, and she starting up in a rage, said, You villain, I will have you hang'd ; and immediately jump'd into the pond, and was with difficulty saved from drowning, by her husband, who led her home, lamenting she could not have her revenge in any manner whatever. Upon their return, she endeavoured to persuade the neighbours, that John had attempted to drown her ;
but

but she had lost her credit among them, and was not believed by any body.

As jealousy was likewise strongly wove into her composition, poor John passed his time very ill on this account, though without reason; for his wife's behaviour made him no great friend to the sex.

Some wanton young girls, knowing her temper, and having a mind to be revenged on a farmer's daughter, who was extremely handsome, and got all the sweethearts from them, persuaded his wife, that John was in love with Bonny Bess of the Bourn, for so she was called, by way of distinction; that the hussy frequently met him in the great wood, and there she might find them any day together. In the center of this wood a rivulet, with a gentle murmur, in a most ravishing manner, rolled its crystal stream, adown a small eminence, into a basin, which was formed by the hand of nature to be a bath for the rustic nymphs and swains, when oppressed by the excessive heat of the dog-star: around it was mossy turf, and the trees spread their luxuriant branches in such a manner as prevented the

the sun-beams from penetrating into this charming retreat. Here Bonny Bess used frequently to come, in hot weather, to work at her needle, and sometimes to bathe her lovely limbs in the basin, as this wood was near her father's house, and belonged to his farm. Her comrades were well acquainted with this, and the heat being excessive the day after they had given their intelligence, two of them enquired at the house for Bess, and were told where she was; but, instead of going to the wood, they ran to tell John's wife, that her husband was with Bonny Bess near the cascade.

Jealousy never enquires into the probability of things; away she runs, attended by an old maiden prude, who happened to be in the house at this time, and was entertaining the good woman with an account of the many great offers which she had refused, when the girls entered. Rage hurried them along for some time, but at length being obliged to stop for want of breath, it was then perceived, by the prude, that they wanted arms to offend their fair enemy, for against her their malice was levelled.

levelled. Therefore, like two furies, they pulled up the nettles, which grew at the place where they halted, and then marched forward. Chance had led two young swains to the wood, just before the women arrived, who, as they approached the cascade, perceived the lovely creature bathing, and could not resist the sweet temptation of peeping from behind some shrubs, which luckily served for this purpose. The women advanced to tie place with fury, and as soon as the prude, who was foremost, espied Bess naked in the water, she jumped into the basin, bearing aloft her dreadful scourge; at which the young creature being alarmed, got out on the opposite side, and with nimble feet run lower down, to shelter herself in the thicket; and the wife, seeing this, endeavoured to cut off her retreat. The young fellows knew no more of the cause of this attack than Bess. However, either out of love, or humanity, they shewed themselves, and one ran to save the fair from her pursuer, and the other leaped into the basin to secure the prude, who was standing in it, waiting the event of her friend's pursuit.

The

The swain seized the old maid, and plunged her so often under the water, without giving her the necessary time to breathe, that he almost killed her with these frequent ablutions, and was obliged to lay her on the bank, to disgorge the water she had swallowed; after which she reared her head, and sat up, greatly fatigued with the unexpected exercise she met with in the basin. The swain then desired to know the cause of this intended violence to the young creature; but she had not yet got the use of her tongue, either to answer, or upbraid him for his usage; which plainly shews, that our ancestors understood the proper remedy for scolding when they ordered ducking-stools for that purpose.

In the mean time Bess was escaped into the wood, and the other youth came up with her enemy, who began to abuse him in a gross manner; upon which he laid her down upon the grass by force, and applied the nettles to her body with so much vigour, that few parts of it was without a blister. The ladies being punished in a manner suitable to their crimes, were conducted home

home by the swains; but before they carried off their prisoners, called aloud to Bonny Bess, to let her know they were conducting her enemies to the town, and that she might safely come out of the thicket, and take her cloaths, which lay by the cascade.

This disappointment brought the whole intrigue to light, and the wife, finding John never visited Bonny Bess, vowed revenge on the girls who deceived her, and trusted in the violence of her temper for using the girl in a brutal manner, without enquiring if she was guilty, or not. Nor was she less outrageous at the young fellows, and wanted John to take the law of them for what they had done to the prude and herself; but he wisely laughed at her, and said, she was rightly served, for believing those wanton young hussies, who endeavoured to make her the instrument of hurting an innocent young creature, only because she was handsome.

After revolving in her mind many schemes of revenge on her husband, for neglecting her in this cruel manner, as madam was pleased to term it, she

at last contrived to make him believe that heaven interposed in her behalf, and admonish'd him to follow his wife's counsel in every thing, upon pain of being severely handled in the next world, if he did not submit to her desires.

John, tired with his domestick quarrels, was seldom at home in an evening, but either at a neighbour's or a publick house, solacing himself with good chear and liquor, to drive away care, and generally came reeling home about one o'clock in the morning. One moon-light night, the wife had intelligence where he was diverting himself, and as his way home lay through the church-yard, she ventured out betwixt twelve and one, and having placed herself behind one of the buttresses of the church, with a sheet under her arm, waited his coming. In a little time she perceived him staggering along; so throws the sheet over her, and stands in the path to meet him, with a speech ready prepared to make him tremble. But when he came within ten yards of her he halted, and uttered the following soliloquy. "What is that, John?" "Why, man, it is a spirit. Will that
" spirit

“ spirit do thee any harm ? No, John ;
 “ for if it is a good spirit, it will not
 “ hurt thee ; and if it is the devil, he
 “ will not do thee any harm, for he
 “ knows thou art married to his own
 “ sister.” The wife, thinking she was
 discovered, took to her heels, and
 being met by one of the neighbours,
 John knew from him, that his wife
 was the spirit he had met.

These things, and the hatred the
 neighbours had to her, afforded them
 sufficient matter for riding the skim-
 mington, at which the whole town
 was diverted at the wife’s expence,
 which almost made her really mad.
 However, with the use of the Supple-
 Jack, and being told, on all occasions,
 that she was the devil’s sister, the good
 woman became much more obliging to
 her neighbours, and John had the li-
 berty of bringing his friends home with-
 out any danger of their being affronted.

LETTER XII.

WE have not any enemy so dangerous as Vanity, for she is constantly filling our heads with high notions of our own merit, and daily putting us upon projects, which seldom turn out to our credit and advantage. She is surintendant of the house of folly, lays us open to flattery, and makes us the prey of every parasite. She hath her turn of advantage over the wisest men, and reigns triumphant in the breasts of weak minds; and from her flows the cause, why patriots so frequently give up many years of fame for a title or a ribband, and coxcombs at threescore flutter among young beauties, like drones about a hive.

Perhaps your ambition to figure it in the world may arise from the same source, and this gay lady may frequently amuse you with the thoughts of being great, and lay before you the gaudy scene of the abject world, courting you as the idol set up to dispose of the goods of fortune, and other such trumpery;
and

and likewise tell you, that your abilities are equal to the post which she hath assigned you. That such a one had less fortune, fewer talents, and was not so well acquainted with the world, yet succeeded; then why should you neglect the glorious occasion of being great, when your country calls you forth, as the only person fit to manage her affairs? But lest you should think me too satirical, I will stop here, and endeavour to amuse you with the following history.

Some years ago, being at Bath for my health, two gentlemen, the same number of ladies, and myself, boarded with an agreeable elderly woman. One of these gentlemen was master of seven hundred pounds a year, had been abroad, was well-bred, and in every thing a reasonable man, except where his vanity was concerned. His person was not in any manner engaging, and his face corresponded with it; however, his glass told him he was a perfect masculine beauty, and vanity assured him, that the fair could not resist the force of his eloquence.

Upon these principles he resolved to make a considerable addition to his

possessions, by marrying a great fortune, and fixed upon a young lady who returned from Bath a little before I arrived there.

This lady was just come of age, and absolute mistress of sixty thousand pounds. Our gentleman had seen and spoke to the fair one, at the publick rooms, and was fully satisfied of her being deeply smitten with his person and merit. Unable to keep his good fortune to himself, he made our brother messmate his confident in this affair, and desired to have his opinion, whether he should immediately follow the lady to London, or stay a little longer at Bath to repair his constitution, which was far from being in a good state; and was advised by his friend to the latter. This gentleman had wit and humour, a perfect knowledge of the world; and tho' he was not of a bad disposition in reality, yet took too much pleasure in exposing the follies of mankind, therefore would not lose this favourable occasion of diverting our little society at the expence of the lover, but immediately writes to a friend at London, of the same cast of mind as himself, and furnishes him with

with materials to personate the waiting-woman of the great fortune.

In due time a letter comes to Sir Vanity, from Mrs. Abigail, to inform him of the tender regard which her mistress had for him ; assuring our lover, if he would follow her directions, she did not doubt of throwing the lady into his arms ; and at the same time she mentioned the place where he might direct to her. You may imagine the gentleman sent an answer by the return of the post, in which were great professions of gratitude for her intelligence, and promises that he would be entirely governed by her in the affair.

Upon the arrival of a second letter, the confident did not think his malice compleat, unless the whole company shared the effects of it with him ; therefore one night after supper, he run into a great encomium on the merit and modesty of our lover, and gave several hints of his friend's happiness, which excited our curiosity to know something more than he was pleased to tell us. The lover only wanted such an opportunity to give a full swing to his vanity ; therefore, after a decent resistance, own-

ed the affair, and produced the letters and his answers, which were read by the droll, who afterwards made a comment on them, very diverting to the company, and not disagreeable to the lover, whose vanity did not suffer him to perceive the raillery. After this, our lover shewed no manner of reserve, but acquainted us with every thing that happened betwixt his correspondent and himself, which was artfully managed by the gentleman at London; and we on the other hand did not fail of diverting ourselves to a very high degree, with the folly of our friend at Bath. Tho' this behaviour may deserve some apology, yet, when people are so intirely run away with by their vanity, as this gentleman, they will always furnish matter of sport to those people, who are turned by nature to expose the follies of mankind.

After amusing him for some time, a letter came with an account, that the lady was prepared for receiving a letter from our lover, which was to come by Abigail's canal, and an answer to be returned by the same means. I shall not trouble you with the gentleman's letter,

letter, but the pretended lady in her's gave him liberty to wait on her, when she returned to London from the country, where she was going to pass two months with a near relation. Upon this last letter we settled his equipage, wedding clothes, and every thing relative to the intended marriage; but before the two months were expired, death, by the means of a consumption, under which he had some time laboured, put an end to his designs.

L E T T E R XIII.

LIARS of all kinds are very contemptible, and some extremely dangerous to the peace and quiet of society. In the reign of queen Ann there lived one of the latter sort, who inherited twelve hundred pounds a year from his father, which he greatly dipped at play. But the same sharpers who stripped him of his money, let him into their secret, on condition of sharing the profits with him. By this means he greatly recovered his affairs, it being some time before he was suspected to be a thief; but as it was not in his power to be honest to any body, they at length turned him out of the gang, for cheating his brethren, and discovered the close connection he had with them.

Amongst his other vices he was very fond of making use of people by the way of friendship, and afterwards laughing at them for their credulity, in which he fancied there was not only wit, but delicate touches of politics. He was ever privately injuring his neighbour,
and

and when found out in his lies, defended himself by roundly asserting he knew nothing of the matter; which seldom failed of making the angry man laugh, for he was such a noted coward, it was a scandal to beat him. At last he became so infamous, that no honest man would take notice of him, no tradesman serve him, nor could he easily borrow money on good security, because he never paid, but when forced by the law. At the latter end of the queen's reign, when parties run high, this fellow became a tale-bearer, and frequented a coffee-house near Covent-garden, to which a set of worthy disbanded officers resorted every evening, and from thence adjourned to a neighbouring tavern, to drink a chearful glass.

Whether envy to see the harmony which reigned in this society, or the hopes of collecting something from their conversation worthy his patron's ear, induced him to get into their club, is yet unknown; however, by his insinuating manner, which would have deceived any body who was not acquainted with his character, he soon got admittance into the club, and commenced a member.

ber. He had not been long of this society before the officers perceived, that the spirit of discord had got into their camp; but as gentlemen of their profession are generally open-hearted, and free from any mean suspicions, they never imagined that their new brother was the cause of these heart-burnings; for he had privately professed a friendship for each individual, and as privately hinted reflections, which he pretended each had made on the other's conduct. At length two gentlemen of the club were going to cut throats, by the means of his artifices, but happily prevented by a mutual friend, who was an early riser, and suspected something of the matter, from their walking towards Marybon-fields, where he had been to take the air. This worthy gentleman obliged them to come to an explanation, and then set forth this fellow's character; by which they were fully satisfied of one another's innocence, and vowed revenge on the rascal who had acted such an infamous part, without the least provocation.

The whole affair was communicated to the club, which furnished new matter

ter for surprize. Our gentleman came into the room, when the officers were in the height of their rage, and was justly upbraided with his treachery, which he could not deny in his usual manner, there being too many witnesses of the truth of these assertions; but he was endeavouring to palliate things, by pretending they mistook his meaning, when one, more furious than the rest, pulled off his full-bottom peruke, and threw it into the fire. The rest, pleased with the joke, resolved to have him pumped, which was immediately executed, in a very severe manner, by a couple of porters, called for that purpose. After this punishment, he was conducted into the club-room; and as the officers were more afraid of the law, than his sword, the president told him, that if they ever heard any more of this affair, he might expect to be caned in every publick place where he should be met by any of the members, and advised him not to come any more to the coffee-house where they resorted. After this exhortation, they rose from their seats, and formed themselves into a line of battle, with Mr. President at
their

their head, who gave the criminal a kick, and delivered him to the next in rank, which was continued till he came to the last, who kicked him out of the room, the door being set open for that purpose. A little time after this adventure, the friends of this extraordinary genius being out of power, he retired into the country.

Perhaps you may wonder how I came to the knowledge of this history ; but any surprize of this kind will cease, when I tell you, it was delivered to me by one of the club, a hardy veteran, who loved telling a story, and though covered with honest wounds, did not think this the meanest of his exploits.

LETTER

LETTER XIV.

THOUGH musick may have powerful charms, and relax the mind agreeably, at proper seasons ; yet I am far from approving the conduct of those gentlemen, who waste their time in learning to be masters of this science, as it seldom happens, that those who excel in fiddling are good for any other thing ; and a middling artist in this way is worse than a bad poet ; besides, too great a passion for musick makes friends and companions of men, who ought to be treated as hirelings. You, who have been in Italy, must know, that this sort of people are the dregs of that country, notwithstanding the saucy airs they give themselves here, through the indulgence of the great : as for the he-singers, they either have been foundlings, or the sons of such unhappy wretches, as are obliged to submit to see human nature debased in their children, to get them a maintenance. However, if fame may be credited, these unbearded gentry convince the ladies wherever they
 come,

come, that the Turks have some reason for using their black slaves with so much cruelty. In short, as this region never produced an eminent painter, so nature hath not fitted our ears to the soft melting strains of Italy, where the climate combines with slavery, to render the people effeminate. No, the martial trumpet, and sprightly hautboy, suits much better with the genius of England; for a true Briton only feels a real extasy, in the lofty airs which breathe liberty, and animate to battle.

Riches become of great value in the hands of persons who know how to make a proper use of them; for, believe me, the more talents we have in our possession, the greater the trust reposed in us, and consequently the more required at our hands. A learned writer observes, that the mareschal duke de Montmorency was never so well pleased, as when he was contributing to the happiness of mankind; and particularly mentions his conversation on that subject with a peasant, who said, That a small sum would make him completely happy. This made the humane duke cry out, in an extasy, Let him have the
money

money immediately. — How fortunate am I ! in having so easy an opportunity of making one honest man happy !

I am in hopes it is owing to the ingratitude of the world, that such actions as this are not talked of in the present age ; for all we can hear of the rich in these times, is, that on such a day such a person came to town, or went out of town, with a great equipage, and on such an occasion gave a great entertainment, which was served up in perfect order, and much admired for its elegance and magnificence. Indeed, when these people depart this life, we hear of the virtues they possessed, which the modest proprietors concealed from us when living. On the other hand, I am afraid that the luxury and expence, which have crept in among us, makes it quite unfashionable to save any thing for a man of merit in distress, and make him happy. But be this as it may, I am sensible there are great characters among us, who give away thousands every year ; an instance of which, in one worthy man, came to my knowledge in the following manner. One morning, going by Somerset-house, a friend

friend of mine was talking to another gentleman at the gate, who went towards the Temple, upon my coming up. My friend, saying he was secretary to such a person, gave me an opportunity to enquire, if the secretary's patron was as charitable as I had privately heard. My friend, who knew the affairs of this family perfectly well, answered yes; and to convince you it is true, you may, if you please, follow the secretary to the Fleet, where he is going, with four hundred pounds, to release a gentleman who is in that prison for a debt of three hundred, besides charges, which the secretary is to pay, and give the surplus to the prisoner. Surely, I said, this unfortunate gentleman must be well known to the secretary's patron. No, answered my friend, for he never saw him; but, notwithstanding, hath sufficient reason to believe he is an object worthy of his bounty.

There is so great a sameness in the pleasures of the town, that I do not think any place affords more tedious hours than this, tho' we live in the midst of noise and bustle; and as here you will not have hills and dales, woods
and

and meadows to range over, nor country affairs to manage, I would recommend books to supply their place, when you reside in this metropolis, as the only remedy for this common ill; for by them we can be almost satiated with our darling variety, something agreeable and new shining in every page. In our libraries we travel over the world, without expence or trouble, and see mankind without their masks; and the wonders to be met with in books are almost infinite, but not necessary to be repeated to you, whose soul thirsts after knowledge *as the hart panteth after the water-brook*. Therefore I shall only add, that if you make any enquiry after learning and good sense, in this great capital, you will find they keep their residence chiefly among the professors of the law, divinity, and physick. Indeed I cannot say that these gentlemen are able to make you as fine a bow as Frank Courtly; but I am sure they can tell how *to make a great city of a little one*. In high life you will generally meet with an insolent ignorance, attended with self-sufficiency, and in the city, a pragmatistical manner, with a contracted knowledge.

H

LETTER

LETTER XV.

RESOLUTION and obstinacy have so much the appearance of being the same, that the last frequently passes in the world for the first; but upon examination we find them to be intirely opposite to one another; for resolution is formed on right principles, and obstinacy on wrong. The resolute man carefully examines the thing before him, to see if it is just and fitting; and when he hath found it to be so, comes to a fixed resolution to support it at all events.

On the contrary, obstinacy arises from a weak mind, and a bad heart; for we never say a man is obstinate, when he persists in the thing which is right, but only when he supports what is wrong, against reason, equity, and justice. The cloudy understanding of an obstinate man doth not permit him to separate appearances from realities; therefore he fixes on the first ideas which arise in his mind concerning every thing which is brought before him, without examining

ing into them; and by this means frequently becomes obstinate in ill, beyond the power of eloquence to bring him into the right way; for obstinate people when once in the wrong never care to be in the right. Reputation such people do not value, religion they despise, and on all occasions are ready to sacrifice every good in life to the pleasure of thinking and acting differently from the rest of mankind.

As you have been pleased to approve of the little histories which I have inserted in my letters, I shall, without any further ceremony, begin the following, which I had from a man of merit.

In a certain county there lived a gentleman, who was remarkable for his morality, for being a friend to mankind in general, and one of the most agreeable companions of his time. These qualifications gained him the friendship of the rich, and love of the poor. But happiness is not to be our portion in this world, of which we shall soon have an example in this worthy gentleman; for though he lived at his paternal seat, in plenty of all things, and honoured and esteemed by his neighbours, yet he had the mis-

fortune to have a son who was his reverse in every thing. This the gentleman saw with pain, and acted like a prudent father and a good citizen, in his endeavour to eradicate out of his breast the ill qualities which appeared very early in his son.

It is difficult for a fond father and a good-natured man to avoid indulging a child too much, when under a parent's eye; therefore this worthy man no sooner perceived the bad disposition of his son increase, than he sent him to an eminent school, where the master had all the necessary qualifications for his charge, particularly that of penetrating into the characters and dispositions of the boys committed to his care. To this gentleman he with tears told the unhappy disposition of his son, and particularly that there was an obstinacy in his temper, which he foresaw would bring the youth into misfortunes, if not cured of it in time; that no reasonable method had been omitted whilst the boy was at home, but without success; therefore begged the favour of him, as a friend, not to neglect any thing which he thought might conduce to bring so good
a work

a work to perfection. The doctor answered; That he might depend on his friendship ; and kept his word.

At the request of the father, here he staid till he was eighteen years of age, and then went to Oxford as a gentleman commoner, the father flattering himself that the habitation of the muses and graces would alter his temper. But alas ! he behaved in such a strange manner at this place, that in less than two years he was expelled the university.

Upon the young gentleman's return home, the wise parent, instead of reproaching him with his ill conduct, was silent on this article, and amused him in the day time with rural diversions, and in the evenings with discourses on various subjects, to try if lenity and reason were capable of making any impression on his savage temper. And as the old gentleman was of revolution principles, he endeavoured to infuse into the breast of his son the spirit of liberty, with an eloquence worthy the subject on which he treated ; and it was on this occasion, that the young gentleman, for the first time, listened with attention to what he said ; and when the father had

done speaking, in a rapture answered, That he was charmed with the discourse, and convinced from it, that nothing could be more absurd than to imagine the Supreme Being ever intended us to be slaves to any of the human race, as he hath created us free agents with regard to himself, and left us at full liberty to be happy or miserable in the next world from our own independent actions in this. The father, agreeably surprized at this sudden change in his son, shed tears of joy, and embraced him with a true paternal fondness.

From hence the good old man gathered some hopes, that heaven would further enlighten the mind of his son, and that nothing might be wanting towards it on his part, he gave him leave to go to London with a handsome allowance, and liberty to stay there as long as he pleased; for the worthy gentleman flattered himself, that the complacency which the better sort of people observe towards one another in this city, would convince him, that obstinacy was a very improper quality for making a man live easy in the world. But the young man did not answer his father's expecta-

expectations, for he was every day getting into disagreeable affairs, and was at last quite abandoned by his acquaintance.

This neglect made him uneasy; therefore, to avoid it, desired leave to go abroad, two years after he came to London. To this the father consented, and allowed him six hundred pounds a year, the father living, till the young gentleman's return, on the interest of some money which he had in the funds, as the clear income of his estate only amounted to what he allowed his son.

It was six months after he landed at Calais, before any body heard from him; and we may reasonably suppose that the only motive for his writing at this time was, his drawing a bill of exchange on his father, which he did at Lisle in French Flanders. The wise remonstrances that were made to him at London, not to talk too freely on religion and politicks in France, were entirely neglected; for he hath since owned, that he employed the first six months after his arrival there in learning the language, that he might be able to laugh at the people, for living in a country where they were slaves to the priests,

as well as the king. And I believe he was very sincere in this particular ; for he managed matters so well on these subjects, in a fortified town on the side of Lorain, that one evening after it was dark, the town-major came to his Lodgings, and very civilly told him, the governor desired to speak with him in the citadel, The Englishman had prudence enough to wait on the major on this occasion, and was soon convinced, that if he had refused to do it, he must have been conducted thither by force ; for looking back by accident as they went along, he perceived a serjeant with a file of musqueteers marching at a convenient distance behind them. When they came to the citadel, our gentleman was ushered into a bed-chamber, which had no other fault but that of having a skylight to let in the day. The major drank a glass of wine with him, and told him, his orders were to leave him in this place ; so wished him a good night, and retired. Here he was immured for two months, having all things necessary provided for him, and an old dumb woman to attend him, but was not allowed pen and ink,

or

or the liberty to see any person. His footman was brought into the citadel, and not permitted to go out of the gate during his master's confinement; and all his baggage was likewise carefully locked up, except what was immediately necessary for his use. When the two months were expired, the major made him a visit, told him his fault, and let him know, that if the French wanted English liberty, they had their lenity; and further informed him, that his footman was at the door, and a post-chaise with his baggage waited to carry him out of the kingdom, and begged that for his own safety he would not return into it till he had learned more prudence. That the shortest way out of the country was by Luxemburg, and the safest by Namur; but he was at liberty to chuse which rout he pleased. The Englishman answered, That he did not think it possible to fall into worse hands than the French, therefore should chuse the shortest road; for the sooner he was out of their territories the better; so getting into the chaise, with his footman, ordered the postilion to drive to Luxemburg. From hence
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he went to Bruffels, and soon after gave convincing proofs, that he carried his obstinacy along with him; for one day being at a publick ordinary, the pretender was mention'd, which gave our countryman an opportunity to inveigh bitterly against him, and all his adherents; nor were the papists forgot on this occasion. An Irish gentleman, in the service of France happening to be there, modestly desired him in English to say no more on subjects which were very ungrateful to every body present, as they were all Roman Catholicks, and their sentiments on these points very different from his. This gentle rebuke, instead of calming the Englishman, inflamed him the more, and was the cause of his making personal reflections on the officer. On the other hand, the officer, seeing his honour concerned, desired the other to ask pardon for the affronts which he had given him without cause, and the affair should go no further. The Englishman owned the other was in the right, but declared, he rather chose to fight him than to have it said, he had asked a pretender's man pardon. They fought accordingly,
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and the Englishman was run through the body, but not mortally wounded. The footman privately gave an account of all these transactions to his father, who seeing no hopes of reclaiming his son, ordered him home.

Soon after his return, the young gentleman fell in love with an agreeable young lady; and the old man, being unwilling to lose this opportunity of settling his son, parted with four hundred pounds a year, in hopes that a total change would be made in his son's unhappy disposition, by the lady's prudence and sweetness of temper. But all the father's care was of no signification, for this wretch, after he had three children by his wife, took it into his head, that they were bastards, and, without the least shadow of reason, persisted obstinately in his opinion. You may suppose the lady was not very happy with such a husband, therefore will not be surprized to hear, that he almost killed her with blows, and then turned her and his children out of doors, who found a refuge at his father's. Irritated at this, he went to law with his father, for harbouring his wife, and
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afterwards brought ejectments against the old gentleman for the rest of the estate, without the least foundation.

After the law had obliged him to let his wife and father be at peace, he considered all the persons who were on the jury, when the ejectment was tried, as people who had highly injured him, and took opportunities of going to law with each of them, which, with the following folly, engaged him in great debts.

His wife being turned out of doors, he considered himself as a single man, and roved among the female adventurers till he became particularly attached to one of this sort, whom he met with at a country fair, and took into his house. The nymph carested him in an extraordinary manner, professed a great love for him, and seemed inconsolable at the thoughts of parting with him. Our happy lover gave credit to a harlot's tears, and became more than ever enamoured with her ; which was the point she aimed at, as this gave her sufficient security for disposing of her favours to more than one in the neighbourhood. But the person who pleased her most
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was a young surgeon, who had spent a pretty fortune, and was as abandoned for a man as she for a woman. This young fellow had been at Paris, where he made a greater proficiency in libertinism, than in surgery, and imbibed that inclination for pleasure which ruined him. He was handsome, danced agreeably, sung well, had an easy air, and was master of the common chit-chat which women of her character cannot resist. His profession brought him frequently to our hero's house, which afforded the lovers an opportunity to bring their amour to perfection. The lady really became as much enamoured of the surgeon, as she pretended to be of her keeper; and the young man wanting money, she supplied him out of the other's purse. The neighbours, observing the commerce betwixt them, gave intelligence of it to the lady's keeper, and were rewarded for it with the appellation of fools and knaves. After this, a maid servant offered to give him proofs of it, and was turned away for talking disrespectfully of madam. At last he was fully convinced of her treachery, by being stripped

ped of every thing valuable in the house that was portable, and his mistress flying away with the surgeon.

His creditors now became clamorous, and his injured father offered to assist him in making his affairs easy; but the dutiful son rather chose to go to gaol, than have an obligation to the best of men. Here he lived for some years, defying his creditors; but when the act of insolvency passed in the year 1742, if I am not mistaken, his creditors compelled him to take the benefit of that act; and he, rather than comply with the terms in it, ventured on a trial for his life. How he escaped, or upon what terms, I do not know; but he did, and once more returned home, where he found himself despised and ill treated by his neighbours, who, instead of returning good for evil, sought all opportunities of persecuting him. Irritated at these proceedings, and obstinate as ever, instead of taking his wife and children home, and living a regular life, he renounced his revolution principles, upon the breaking out of the last rebellion, in hopes of being revenged on all those whom he imagined
had

had injured him, in case the Jacobite party succeeded in their enterprize. With these expectations he joined the pretender, when he was on his march to Darby, and, fortunately for his family, was killed in the action near Penrith.

LETTER

LETTER XVI.

THOUGH I have nothing to add concerning your private conduct, yet before I enter upon your parliamentary scheme, I intend to give my opinion on those things which were the subject of our discourse the morning after we had been at Vauxhall, as you then desired I would put my thoughts on them into writing, for your perusal.

You may remember, that luxury and extravagance, particularly those parts of them which regard the middling and lower ranks of people, were the principal points upon which we reasoned: I shall begin therefore at the reign of queen Anne, when fine cloaths and fine equipages were so seldom seen, and so much despised by people of fashion, that those who made a figure in them were honoured with the title of *beaux*. And more fully to convince you of this truth, I shall inform you, that one day looking at the picture of a noble lord dressed in a plain velvet coat and a brocaded waistcoat, with a white staff in his hand,
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a worthy son of this peer told me, his father wore that suit of cloaths on three different birth-days of his royal mistress ; which were constantly laid by as useless lumber, when the day was finished. However, after the peace of Utrecht things took a different turn ; for then our youth were at liberty to go into France, that nursery of foppery, from whence they seldom brought any thing except the vices of the country and fine cloaths. But what gave the fatal stroke to the modest English dress was, the unfortunate year 1720. The infatuation was then general among all ranks and degrees of people ; and it is impossible to describe the riotous manner in which the seemingly fortunate lived, during the short time they were possessed of their imaginary riches. The finest holland, and best Flanders lace not being good enough to be shirts and garniture for fellows, who a few years before had none belonging to them : nor were they content with the common method of dressing their meat, but had hams boiled in champain ; with other follies still more extraordinary.

Well; the riches fled, but the evil remained behind, which, far from losing ground, seems to increase every day. Before the above period, the most wealthy merchants seldom or ever went beyond a gold button on their coats, and a waistcoat from Lyons; but now you see all ranks of people in ruffles and lace; and each theatre filled with more spectators every winter, than usually went to one of them, when Drury-lane play-house was without a rival. Nor is this at all surprising, as you can scarce meet with a journeyman or an apprentice, at present, who doth not pretend to be a judge of poetry, musick, and the justness of action; the art of thriving being no longer studied by young tradesmen, but obliged to give place to politer knowledge. And what is the consequence of these things? why, continual bankruptcies, daily robberies, and frequent murders.

It would be highly unreasonable, to refuse a tradesman the liberty of taking a little recreation with his family; but then he ought to do it in a manner suitable to his station, for aiming at higher things is constantly attended with

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an improper expence. As for example, when a shopkeeper drives his fine wife in a chaise and pair, with his waistcoat bedaubed with lace, and a hired coachman in a genteel livery behind, by way of servant, the cunning innkeepers, at the places where they amuse themselves, take advantage of their folly, and make them pay for their pride; by which means it frequently costs them five or six and twenty shillings, in a borrowed character, when seven or eight would have made them fare deliciously in their own. The same inconvenience arises at these new-invented diversions; for the master of a family becomes a subscriber out of œconomy, and, that this money may not be thrown away, the husband and wife lay out fifty pounds to make themselves fit company for their betters; and, as I have hinted before, spend their money agreeable to the character they have assumed.

It is a common custom to complain, that trade is dead, and the times hard; but I am convinced there never was so great a national trade carried on as at present; for, as our trade chiefly consists in our own product and manufactures,

factures, and the product of our colonies, it is not easily turned into another channel; and when it happens that any particular part fails, new discoveries and a greater trade in other branches do more than make amends. And further, these discontented gentry do not consider, that since the peace of Utrecht there are near two-thirds more people concerned in the several branches of trade than were before that time, and consequently there cannot be such large sums for each individual, though there is, upon the whole, much more gained by the nation; which is far from doing any damage to trade, as it makes industry the more necessary. However, let this be as it may, it would suit these gentlemen much better to put in practice that plain maxim, by which their ancestors grew rich, *keep your shop, and your shop will keep you*, than to rail at the times. But instead of pursuing this wise scheme, people who are only coming into business have their nag and country lodgings; and those in middling circumstances, a chaise and country house; things unknown to their fathers, till they

they were in the decline of life, and easy in their fortunes.

From hence I conclude, that want of trade is not the cause of so many bankruptcies, but extravagance; therefore the business is to cure this evil, which in time may throw every thing into confusion; as people who make themselves necessitous by their vices, are always ready to mutiny, in hopes of getting something by convulsions in the state. I know you will answer me, that the evil is great, but what method can be taken to cure it, in a country where so little regard is paid to penal laws as in this? I own there is great reason in what you say, however, I still think a remedy may be applied, which will prove an effectual cure; but then the great must give up the swords and laced coats of those servants who are at present stiled *officers*, which term doth very well in France, from whence it lately came, and where it is common to see the camp equipages of persons of distinction consist in ninety or one hundred servants; but seems as improper to be used in this country, as it would be to compare the magnificent hôtels in

Paris with our houses of four or five windows in front, which help to make up a row in some dirty street, and because their owners and inhabitants happen to be men of title, to call them such and such particular houses. Nor do I think it in any manner proper, that servants out of livery should be permitted to wear swords in London; for by this means the first in rank are liable to be attacked by Valet-de-chambres, if they resort to publick places, where these gentry swarm, dressed as fine as their masters, and frequently in their cloaths.

LETTER XVII.

I Perceive many will cry out, that my scheme to reform our manners is an open attack upon our liberty : but I say it is only an attack upon licentiousness ; for, without a proper subordination, no government can subsist ; therefore every body is at liberty to propose such methods as they think will be the most conducive to this end, and to make all persons satisfied with the station allotted them by Providence, as at present the lower orders of our fellow-subjects are so infatuated with pleasure and libertinism, that their wants are become much greater than their means, and they scarce know in what degree of life they are placed.

The Dutch are a free people, as well as ourselves ; yet there is not any body in Holland attempts to exceed their proper dress, the garb of the magistrates being always suitable to their gravity, the traders modest, and that of the common people decent. As for the miad-servants, they never quit their round-

ear'd caps, jackets and short petticoats ; and I think there are not in Europe women, in their station, so well dressed. They are never seen in dirty linnen, greasy cloaths, daggled petticoats, or with holes in their stockings ; but it is quite the reverse with our maid-servants, six days in the week ; and I believe if you examine these long-petticoat gentry a little closely, you will find holes in their stockings, full as large as that Mr. Hogarth hath humorously placed in a lady's hose in the *Harlot's Progress*. However, to make us amends for their dirtiness on the week days, they are decked out on sundays beyond all rule or decency, with their fly caps, silk gowns, monstrous hoop-petticoats, and great French pocket-holes. For which reason, if we strip these ladies of their cane hoops, it cannot do much harm to trade or liberty.

I shall now give you the heads of a bill, which I think, if carried into execution, will effectually put a stop to any further progress of idleness and extravagance, of which we so justly complain ; for if we can but gain the tradesman and mechanick, we shall not have

have much difficulty with the common labouring people, who, when they see their masters, as they term those who employ them, set seriously about a reformation, they will readily follow such good examples.

The heads of a bill proposed, for the better regulating the dress of tradesmen, &c.

THAT no tradesman, shopkeeper, or mechanick, be permitted to wear gold or silver lace, or embroidery in gold or silver, on their cloaths, or upon their hats, by way of ornament, or otherwise.

That the sons of tradesmen, &c. be not permitted to wear gold or silver lace, or embroidery in gold or silver, till they come to the age of twenty-one years; and then only if they do not come within this act, in any other manner than as sons of tradesmen, &c.

That no tradesman, &c. be permitted to wear swords, except when they are upon a journey, for the safety of their persons.

That the wives and daughters of tradesmen, &c. be not permitted to wear
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any diamonds, or other precious stones, by way of ornament, or otherwise, rings for the fingers excepted.

That the wives and daughters of tradesmen, &c. be not permitted to wear gold or silver lace, or embroidery in gold or silver, on their cloaths, handkerchiefs, or other ornament for the neck, stays, or head-tire.

That the wives and daughters, &c. be not permitted to wear any lace made of thread, such as Bone lace, Brussels lace, Mechlin lace, &c.

That journeymen, apprentices, book-keepers, or any other person, in the state of servitude, be not allowed to wear gold lace, &c. during the time that they shall continue in such state of servitude.

That no journeyman, apprentice, book-keeper, &c. be permitted to wear a sword, except upon a journey.

That this act take place, with regard to the wives of tradesmen, &c. only during the lives of their respective husbands, unless the widow brings herself within this act, by carrying on some trade or business.

That

That the act take place, with regard to the daughters of tradesmen, only during the lives of their respective fathers.

That if any tradesman, &c. retires from business, then the said act to cease, so far as regards the said tradesman and his family.

That all single women, using any art or business, shall be deemed to be within this act.

That all journey-women, female apprentices, wives and daughters of men, who gain their bread by labour, and maid-servants, shall be deemed to be within this act.

That when any single woman, using any art or business, or the daughter of any tradesman, &c. marries, such person shall be considered as the wife of the man she marries, and no otherwise, with regard to this act.

That all merchant adventurers be excepted out of this act.

That all persons dealing only in wholesale be excepted out of this act, provided they do not keep any shop or warehouse open to the street, for the sale of their goods.

That

That all livery servants be excepted out of this act.

If I thought myself worthy to offer my opinion on the penalties to be inflicted on the breach of this law, I should give it in the following manner.

That for the first offence, any tradesman, &c. commits, he shall have the nature of his offence wrote in capital gold letters on a board, which shall be set in his shop-window, or over his door, for six days following one another; and for which he shall be at the expence.

For the second offence the same punishment.

For the third, he shall be obliged to walk, with a paper on his breast, to the Royal Exchange, six days following one another, guarded by the proper officers of justice, and stand at the entrance into the Exchange from twelve till two each day.

That for the fourth offence, if a freeman of the city of London, he shall forfeit his freedom, and have his shop shut up, and not suffered to exercise his

his trade or business within ten miles of London. And if such offender is not a freeman, he shall not be allowed to take up or purchase his freedom, nor be permitted to exercise his trade or business within ten miles of London.

If any person, who hath no art or trade, and is in the state of servitude, or gains his bread by labour, offend, he shall be fined and imprisoned.

As to the women, I do not think any punishment for them equal to confinement; therefore would imprison them, for more or less time, as shall be thought proper.

You have now my plan before you; and I must beg leave to observe, that the desire of figuring it in the world, and the pride of appearing to be superior in rank to their real station, are the principal causes why tradesmen and their families are so frequently seen at Vauxhall, &c. For, by the liberty allowed in these places to all well-dressed persons, our traders may in some measure be said to keep company with persons of the first rank; which raises a new dislike to the compter, and often
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causes them to pursue high pleasures, till they are undone. Therefore, when their unfitting ornaments are taken away, and a tradesman and his family become as well known by their dress, as a soldier by his regimentals, the same pride that now brings them to these places, will then keep them at home.

And when they find themselves under the necessity of searching for friends and companions, among persons of their own rank, their relish for trade and industry will return, and in time fortunes be raised, sufficient to make themselves and children happy ; for by this means, they will be enabled to bestow on their sons such liberal educations, as may tend to make them hereafter ornaments to their country, and have proper time to see their daughters well instructed in virtue, and every thing necessary towards becoming dutiful children, and careful and obedient wives ; an ambition certainly more worthy of rational beings, than wasting their substance in idle pleasures.

LETTER

LETTER XVIII.

AS it is natural for people to be fond of their own children, and see perfections in them which are not so visible to others; I cannot stop here, but, with a parental fondness, must endeavour to show you, that my brat is not only of use to traders, but a friend to trade.

Not many years ago, a merchant of Valenciennes owned to me, that before the act of parliament passed for prohibiting cambricks and lawns, the French took yearly near five hundred thousand pounds, mostly in guineas, for these commodities; the English, who carried or sent over the species of their country, having, I think, nine pence profit upon each guinea. At the same time the French were very glad of this opportunity to receive the guineas, as they were convenient to pay the English runners of wool, who by this means were free from the danger of being detected in their wickedness, by receiving bills of exchange, or foreign coin. I cannot
say

say positively what they do at present, though I am sensible, there is a great smuggling trade carried on from Dunkirk, Ostend, Flushing, Middleburg, Terveer, and Rotterdam, to almost all the parts of this island; therefore I presume the French still get the guineas, though not in so easy a manner as before the act passed.

As brocades, embroideries, gold and silver lace, Mechlin and Brussels lace, are considerable articles in this contraband trade, I am of opinion, that if this project was carried into execution, it would in a great measure put a stop to the running of wool, as well as to smuggling the above-mention'd commodities; provided that abominable custom of sending our guineas to Rotterdam was intirely laid aside. Every body knows the damage we receive by having our wool sent out of our country; therefore I shall say nothing about it, nor of the brocades and embroideries, or the gold and silver lace smuggled into it; but shall mention something with regard to the Mechlin and Brussels lace.

The goods we send into the Austrian Netherlands are scarce worth mentioning, being of such small value ; and even that part of them which goes to Antwerp passes through the hands of the Dutch, who consequently have some share in the profit. As for cloths of all kinds, the people of these countries are intirely supplied with them from the dutchy of Limburgh ; and though their fine cloths are not equal in goodness to the English broad cloths, yet they are far from being bad, and grow better every day. I believe it is difficult to come to the knowledge of the quantity and value of the Brussels and Mechlin laces, which are yearly brought into Great Britain, as scarce half comes to the Custom-house, especially of those called edgings. And as we daily perceive from experience, that there is no means of preventing the smuggling of them, but by a prohibition which this scheme amounts to, and a more effectual one than that for prohibiting cambricks and lawns, as it is impossible to play those tricks with laces, that are done with French cambricks and lawns. These things being allowed, we shall

by this means reduce a ruinous trade almost to nothing ; as the principal customers of the smugglers of laces are those who will be prohibited wearing them ; and what remains of the lace-trade must necessarily fall into the hands of the fair trader ; our guineas will not travel abroad, and the runners of wool find greater difficulties in carrying on their infamous trade.

I must likewise add, that the Herald's office formerly had its merit in assisting to keep up a proper distinction betwixt the gentry and commonalty. But at present the substance is gone, and nothing but the shadow remains, for want of a proper power to support the laws of the Earl-marshal's court, whose orders and penalties are rendered of no effect, by the method now practised, of removing the causes of this court into Westminster-hall, where the damage done is only considered. From hence flows the cause why every low-born person who happens to bear the name or likeness of the name of a gentleman, boldly assumes the arms of that family, struts in the stolen armour, and calls himself a gentleman, which *throws down*
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all distinction. The heralds have also for some time neglected their perambulations through the different counties, on account of the great expence that attends them ; by which means country gentlemen have not the opportunity that they ought to have of registering themselves and families ; which in time will occasion great difficulties, in settling titles to peerages, and heirs to estates, as gentlemen's families and their intermarriages in the several descents regularly registred, shew, with the utmost exactness, the heirs at law of every gentleman and gentlewoman in England. To me this good alone seems sufficient to deserve the attention of the legislature, tho' I am sensible it would likewise have a good effect towards keeping new-raised people within the due bounds of subordination, when they were convinced, that bearing arms to which they had no title, would subject them to be exposed and punished.

I shall not presume to regulate the conduct of people of fortune ; but leave gentlemen to spend their estates in such manner as best suits their inclination ; and shall be extremely well satisfied if

I can bring the lower orders of the people to follow their proper avocations with industry; as by this means their morals will be greatly amended, and many among them not only become rich, but good men, and proper persons to purchase the estates of such gentlemen as spend them wantonly; for our traders, by their good example, will establish, where-ever they settle, that simplicity of manners which we so justly applaud in our ancestors, and never think of imitating.

I do not pretend to say, that what I have wrote to you on the cure of this dreadful distemper, which we at present labour under, is an infallible remedy; but that I think it would succeed, if put in practice: however, if you do not relish this proposal, but think it ridiculous, I give you free leave to laugh at my Utopian scheme.

LETTER

LETTER XIX.

ALL that remains at present is to enquire into this scheme of yours, for coming into Parliament. By what you mention, I find there are some people in the county of — who have pitched upon you as a proper person to be a candidate at the next general election. These people you call your friends; but in reality they are only so to themselves, for they want to make use of your purse, to revive their own expiring interest, and be revenged of the present members, who have worsted them in their last encounter. But in the first place, it is not an easy matter to conquer a victorious army with beaten troops; and in the next, you will find that these friends of yours do not intend to lay out a single shilling in your service, but to place the whole to your account. Besides, so many things happen on these occasions betwixt the prospect and possession, that you are never sure of the game, till the return is in your pocket. I remember a ball

given in a certain county, on a wrong day, though without any ill design, cost a gentleman some thousands, and, notwithstanding all his efforts, occasioned his antagonist to be returned. But suppose you gain your point the first time, at a great expence, and totally rout the enemy, you must allow that these friends of yours will have it in their power, by joining their forces to the beaten party, to pull you down, as they now want to do the present members; therefore you must be their slave, instead of representative, or umbrage will be taken at your conduct.

Elections are dangerous things, and prove too frequently the ruin of those people whose vanity or ambition prompts them to obtain a seat in P———t. I knew a worthy gentleman, whose memory deserves a tear, an instructive instance of this kind. When young he was flattered with having greater abilities than came to his share, which made him desirous to get into P———t. A vacancy happens in a considerable town, where his family had formerly served; he becomes a candidate, and obtains a seat in St. Stephen's Chapel. Here his
natural

natural fire, and want of proper ballast to his vanity, put him upon projects to which he was not in any manner equal: however, he was rewarded for his endeavours with a place of one thousand pounds a year. A new contest arises on this occasion, and after this another, which intirely funk him, and too late convinced him, that he was a bad statesman, and no extraordinary orator, and that he must live for the future in a state of dependency on every m——r who sat at the helm of affairs, and get a C——h b——h, if he thought of coming any more into P———t, as he was not able to support another contest at the place where he was elected. His spirit, unable to bear these mortifications, threw him into a disorder, that in a short time carried him into another world; by which means his acquaintance were deprived of a sincere friend, and a good-natured easy companion.

I must likewise tell you, that you are not of the proper paste to make a m———l favourite; for I know you are too much of a rough Briton, to take any sort of impression which a great man pleases to give you; and if I

judge right, you would hesitate at a disagreeable command, and, if you thought it unreasonable, disobey, which would intirely ruin you; for it is with m——rs, as among the Roman Catholics, he that is guilty of one error in point of faith, is judged to be guilty of all. Nor is it to be wondered at; for interest forms these friendships, and consequently it is natural that interest should dissolve them.

I shall finish this letter with the words Gulliver puts into the mouths of his royal ghosts, which would have been more properly spoken by their m——rs, in the following manner: that they did never once prefer any person of merit, but by mistake, neither would they do it if they were to live again; because that positive, confident, restive temper, which virtue infuses into a man, is a perpetual clog to publick business.

LETTER

LETTER XX.

C—TS are looked upon as the center of power, wealth and honours ; therefore it is reasonable to suppose, that various kinds of characters appear at these places ; but the difficulty of getting access to p——s, and the insolence of their m——rs, soon make the modest man retreat. Men of morals are frequently shocked at the measures proposed to them ; and those of birth and true spirit cannot bear the thoughts of cringing to men who are inferior to them in every thing but power and riches. For this reason the road to greatness becomes open to men of vicious characters, who easily look over all sort of difficulties, to raise their fortunes.

However, I think a man may serve his prince with honour, and his country with integrity ; and at the same time I firmly believe, there have been patriots in all ages, and that there are at present, whom my weak pen cannot sufficiently praise. As for those whom fate hath snatched from us within these few years,

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light lies the earth upon them, and all the fragrant flowers which virtue doth produce adorn their tombs.

Most people think they are capable of governing, but very few are really so. A man ought to have a call to the ministry of the state, as well as the gospel; the necessary qualifications for the last suiting extremely well with the first. As to the ambitious man, he is the most improper person imaginable; for there is not any thing he will not attempt to get into power, nor any thing he will omit to maintain it. The true interest of every country is very easy for the natives to know; but it is not to be expected that the ambitious man will pursue this interest any further than it squares with his own power. Wars are frequently of use to m——rs of absolute monarchs, and peace as necessary to m——rs in a free government. Misfortunes in wars abroad generally raise storms at home, and frequently tumble down m——rs in the last; therefore, whether peace is the national interest, or not, at the time an ambitious man is at the head of affairs, he will certainly maintain it as long as possible, and give up the honour and
interest

interest of his country, rather than by vigorous measures run the risk of losing his employments.

In those countries where despotism reigns, the prince is surrounded with the slaves of his ministers, who are not only spies for their master, but ready to revolt, whenever the sovereign hath a mind to change hands, or alter his measures. The marshal D'Ancre was judged to be so very dangerous to the prince, that Lewis XIII. thought it prudent to have him assassinated within his palace-gates. And Mons. Fouquet had such a number of dependents, and so many people attached to his fortune, that the mighty monarch Lewis XIV. durst not venture to arrest him at Paris, but made a journey to Nantz, for that purpose. Indeed in a free country, like our's, there is no danger of such a thing happening.

I frequently read over the reign of queen Elizabeth, her conduct being the standard by which I try the management of state affairs in the present times, as I do not think the true interest of England was ever more closely pursued than in the reign of this princess ; and every one
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must allow, that her prudence shines forth on all occasions, particularly in her choice of m——rs and ambassadors; for it doth not appear to me, that any body since her time hath surpassed Burleigh in integrity, or Walsingham in abilities or disinterestedness. Nor were her ambassadors much inferior to her m——rs; it being recorded, that she always sent persons of the first rank on embassies of compliment, and men of abilities on matters of business. Indeed she had occasion for all the wisdom of her counsellors in those difficult times in which she lived; and they never forfeited the good opinion she had of them, but conducted her with honour and safety during her long reign. I cannot say so much for her successor, whose ambassadors and negotiators were continually duped. Nor is it in any manner surprising; for this prince's courtiers had not the modesty of the great Oxenstiern's son, who thought he had not sufficient experience to undertake an embassy on which his father proposed to employ him, which occasioned this memorable saying of the chancellor of Sweden, *My son, You do not know how little*

little wisdom is employed in governing the world. The candidates for places in James the first's time were of Oxenstiern's opinion; therefore all attempted to get into the highest employments, and too many succeeded; which is one reason why the annals of this prince appear to an Englishman in a disagreeable light. Therefore, if it should ever happen that you are *great*, take care never to deceive your prince, by recommending people of little merit, as proper persons to serve him; let not a favourite mistress govern you in things where your master's honour, or your own credit is concerned; nor permit a mean fellow to creep into a place which ought to be filled by a gentleman, because he hath been useful in your private pleasures. In short, follow the example of these worthy men who at present are on the stage; for look but around, and you will be charmed to see the places at home and abroad filled with men who support their employments with so much dignity, that their conduct reflects honour on their patrons, who, we may reasonably suppose in the choice of them
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observed queen Elizabeth's rule, in strictly inquiring into the morals and private characters of the persons she intended to promote; that wise princess frequently saying, If the man was not respected, the magistrate would not be revered.

LETTER

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LETTER XXI.

IT is a common thing to hear people say, with great admiration, such a one is a profound politician! but if this word means a man who hath more art than integrity, as I think it doth, such a one cannot expect to gain immortal glory by his actions; for, certainly, to arrive at the temple of Fame, it is necessary to pass through that of Virtue. Cardinal Richlieu was a great politician, but no body can say, he was a good man. We may admire his abilities, but then we must condemn him for bathing himself in the blood of his fellow-subjects, and building his fortune on the ruin of his country. Indeed this man and some others are remembered only to be reproached; but the lives of most politicians pass away like a dream, for they are no sooner dead than forgot; the busy world being too much employed in cringing to those who take their places, to have leisure for thinking on men who are no longer capable of serving them. But happy for us, this is a trade we are
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not acquainted with, Lord Rochester declaring, That British policy is one of those things which end in nothing.

I begin to be tired with these politicks and parliamentary affairs; therefore, that we may finish them with this letter, I will suppose you safely seated in the house, and considering which way to act; and, that you may not lose ye time in so doing, point out a method for you to follow, which hath been often practised with success, when men have had abilities to support their pretensions. Set up for a patriot, cry out, *O liberty! O my country!* and rail at bad m——rs till you get a place to your liking. But now I have laid out a plan for you, I must be so candid as to declare, it will not do at this juncture, though it might have succeeded when the lower house was less chaste than at present; besides, the m——y is composed of men whose abilities are equal to their integrity, and therefore cannot fear an inquiry into their conduct. Indeed, in the time of the P——t in king Charles the second's reign, called the pensioner P——t, a troublesome man might have done his business very well, by endeavouring to
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alarm the people with the danger of losing their religion and liberty, as then there would have been a good deal of truth in his remonstrances. Of this I will leave you to judge, after I have related a little history, which I had from the mouth of Mr. Barksted, son to the regicide of that name, with whom I came acquainted at Richard's coffee-house, Temple-bar. Barksted was very old, and as I always admired these living histories, so we frequently drank a pint of wine together. At those times I listened attentively to his discourse, which was insinuating and instructive; he was wise from his own misfortunes, and tho' he had been rather a spectator than an actor in the world, yet, having admission to all the considerable persons of his own party, he came to the knowledge of many interesting things relating to our religion and liberty, during the reigns of Charles the second, James the second, and William the third. Among other things, he gave the honour of the act of settlement to the Tories, with which the Whigs have plumed themselves so much, and profited so well by; but be this as it may, since we enjoy the good

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resulting from this happy event, it is very indifferent to me, who were the contrivers of the scheme, or brought it to perfection.

I had almost forgot that I was going to tell you Barksted's sentiments on the P——t call'd the pensioner P——t. Never, he said, were such a groupe of rascals collected together as the majority of them. The civil wars brought in among us at least the appearance of virtue; but these men, quite lost to shame, laughed at liberty and property, took bribes, and received pensions openly, and were ready on all occasions to betray their country. Nor were their opponents much better, for they laid down this strange maxim, That it was necessary to oppose bad m——rs in every thing, even when they acted for the good of their country, to distress them in such a manner, that they should be obliged to quit the stage to honest men. Now these honest men were themselves, as it plainly appeared on several occasions. At this time luxury broke in like a torrent, and men became very easy about living above their incomes, as a bribe or a pension could make up the deficiency.

ciency. In short, they pushed bad measures to such a degree, and raised the prerogative so high, that James the second only wanted more prudence and less bigotry to have ruined us quite.

Many arguments have been made use of to show the advantages of septennial P——ts, and as many to show the disadvantages accruing from them; among those used in their favour is the following; that parties in the several counties are not so violent as when we had triennial P——ts, because people have now a longer time to cool. But I think the contrary; for whilst triennial P——ts subsisted, it was a frequent custom to compromise matters among the neighbouring gentlemen in the counties and boroughs, by agreeing they should sit alternately; whereas such a proposal at present would justly be considered as ridiculous, from the length of time each party is to sit; therefore at present elections are disputed with great heat and expence, and the proposition made to you seems to show that time doth not lessen the hatred of parties in this particular, As for my part, I am so far from being a friend to

any thing of this kind, that I think the Trimmer, as drawn by the marquis of Halifax, the perfect honest man.

You judge very rightly, that I am against your coming into P——t, I mean by a contested election; for if you have a free offer to represent the county of —— I think you ought not to refuse serving your country; but if this doth not happen, there are more certain means to arrive at immortality than by ambition. Look over your Books, and you will see that no small number of our countrymen have gained it by learning; consider well the immortal Bacon, whose faults as a magistrate are in a manner forgot, to make him some recompence for the great service he hath done mankind in general by his learning. But if you do not like this method, follow the rules of equity and justice, and chuse to be good, rather than seem so. Do not, like Cæsar, pursue fame; but imitate Cato, and let Fame follow you: and then I may safely pronounce you will gain your point, let your thirst for glory be ever so great.^u

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I have now finished the task I set myself. — I know these Letters will be read by you in the same spirit they are wrote, and that you will pardon the many imperfections in them, of which no man is more sensible than myself.

F I N I S.

